

T H E
Eliza Bradbury
Oppressed Captive.

B E I N G

AN HISTORICAL NOVEL, deduced
from the *Distresses* of real Life, in
an impartial and candid Account of
the unparallel'd *Sufferings* of CAIUS
SILIUS NUGENIUS, now under Con-
finement in the *Fleet Prison*, at the
Suit of an implacable and relentless
Parent.

K. Plunkett (Thomson)

Quis Talia fando
Myrmidonum, Dolopumve aut duri miles Ulyssæi.
Temperet a lachrymis? ————— *Virg.*

L O N D O N:

Wrote by the AUTHOR and SUFFERER in
the *Fleet Prison*, 1757.

Price 3.

TO THE
G E N E R O U S

A N D

Humane Reader.

TH E following sheets;
which nothing but the
utmost necessity could oblige
me to lay before the world;
contain an impartial account
of the most extraordinary and
barbarous persecution, that
ever a child received from the
hand of an injured though
relentless parent; or abandoned
by the author of my being;

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and

and compelled to seek that redress from the public, I have elsewhere so often sought in vain: I hope the considerate part of mankind, will be candid enough, to confess there is no need any farther to apologize for the revival of my case, which was under the title of the *Unnatural Father*, or the *Persecuted Son*, so kindly received by the public sometime ago.

O! generous reader, whoever thou art, 'tis not a natural talent for scribbling that induces me to write, it is what more, much more effects the
very

To the R E A D E R. . v

very essence of human being;
it is the tyrant hunger, who
with hollow eyes, and tran-
sparent cheeks, puts in his
undeniable plea, or write, or
starve; to the public then, as
to a parent, for other parent
alas! I have none, I apply for
relief, and could I at the
same time indulge myself with
hopes, that the beneficent
and humane, would so far in-
terest themselves in promoting
the happiness of a fellow crea-
ture, as to give me the most
distant prospect of attaining
future liberty, it would sooth
the anguish of despair, and

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soften the melancholy thought
of perpetual confinement,

O ! liberty, thou darling fa-
vourite of the meanest *Britain*,
what art thou ? a good not
known till lost : in vain hath
nature profusely kind, spread
out her flowery lap, and grate-
fully disposed the lofty moun-
tains, and the verdant vale,
the forrest nods, the cattle low,
the feathered warblers sing,
the river glads the neighbour-
ing meads in vain ; far other
prospect high, dismal walls,
strong iron bars interpose, and
greet the unhappy wretch, ba-
nished from the social part of
man-

To the R E A D E R. · vii

mankind, and immured within the gloomy limits of a prison.

Ye happy pairs, who wandering by the purling stream, communicate soft tales of love, and interchange the endearing vow; for whom bounteous providence has stretched out the ample park, and the canal extends his confin'd flood: for whom bleats the fleecy herd, the musk rose blooms; in the happy moment, when your bosom glows with gratitude to the author of all your good; kindly remember your fellow creature in distress, oppressed

pressed by the hand of power ;
 whose steps are limited, and
 person devoted to penury and
 destruction. Ye who mount-
 ed in the gilded chariot, look
 down upon the multitude be-
 neath : and ye patrons of liber-
 ty, *Britannia's* best loved sons,
 whose canvass whitens the re-
 motest shores, who spread her
 fame around the globe, and
 join both *Indies* to her empire ;
 look with a favourable eye up-
 on me, while I supplicate your
 assistance, if not to regain
 what every *Englishman* claims
 as his native right liberty ; at
 least, that you would by en-
 couraging.

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couraging this present undertaking, enable me wherewith to subsist, which would alleviate in part the cruelty of confinement, and shut out misery at one door.

But should I meet with what is more than my most sanguine thoughts can expect, the sanction of the benevolent, so far as to empower me to withstand the strength of oppression, by opening the gates of equity, which without irresistible gold, must for ever be barred against me; a lively sense of gratitude, and an innate desire to be of service to my king, and country, would

TO THE READER

would compel me with the greatest joy to do my duty, and if honoured with a pair of colours, to shed the last drop of my blood, in the most distant wilds of *America*, and die with pleasure in defending my fellow subjects from the infernal barbarities of savage *Indians*, instigated by *French* policy to disturb the peace and tranquility of mankind.

I shall endeavour in the subsequent pages, to give the reader a more minute, and perfect account of myself, and family, than was thought proper to express in the pamphlet lately

lately entitled the *Unnatural Father*; in which I shall leave the world to judge, whether the least shadow of reason can be given, for the most cruel treatment I have receiv'd from one, whom nature has pointed out for my protector, not my persecutor.

I own that the unfortunate cause of my being, has been a bone of the greatest contention in the families affected by my birth; but the nicest casuist will be puzzled to assign a reason why I should be punished for a fault not mine; or why the principal aggressor, who

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who by the laws of nature is obliged to regard me as his own, should with relentless malice persecute me from kingdom, to kingdom; by various stratagems, compel me to deny my name, force me to sign bond upon bond, distress me in variety of prisons, deprive me even of gaining a comfortable support, without being the least burthen to him, lay the most artful schemes to trapan me abroad, which hitherto I thank God, have been frustrated; confine me in the most infamous Goal † in this kingdom, without any thing to support

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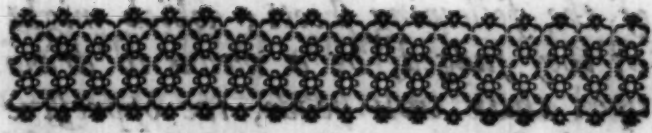
† Newgate

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me but bread and water; appear in person against me at *Guild-Hall*, to the surprize of all the court, to prevent my taking the benefit of the late insolvent act; and, finally to conclude a detail of the most unaccountable distresses, immure me in the *Fleet* prison for life, without the least glimpse of ever obtaining liberty on this side the grave; except the public should enable me to open the courts of justice and seek redress, by those laws to which every subject of *Great Britain* is intitled; to obtain which, together with an im-

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mediate support, is the principal cause of my endeavouring to draw the attention of the world by reviving my case, in which I shall adhere to the strictest truth, and as plain matters of fact require little or no embellishments, I hope I shall stand excused before the generous reader for delivering a downright tale; and if excited thro' a motive of pity, the tender, and humane should drop a silent tear in commiseration of my sufferings; I return my humble thanks for such regard, and leave the impartial world to judge betwixt me and my inveterate enemies. 22 FE 59



PREFACE.

I will not be deemed unnecessary to give the public my reasons, for causing to be published under the sanction of a Novel, the following Memoirs of my hitherto unhappy life; the difficulties I lay under, should I have attempted to give it any other title were insurmountable, occasioned by the universal fear the printers of this great Metropolis had conceived, at the thoughts of exposing in any more open manner, the unnatural and tyrannous disposition, so remarkably conspicuous in the principal character

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of

of the following sheets; which might as they judged, be a means to draw upon their own heads, the oppressive hand of a man whose power, wealth, and malevolence are so well known to the world. Nevertheless, I hope this tale of misery will not gain less credit, upon account of my being compelled to dress under the air and stile of a Novel, a narrative of real and well known facts.

I make no doubt, to the ingenuous and attentive reader, the truth of the whole, will be rendered sufficiently evident by a comparison of the parts; where he will find no artifices, no subterfuges made use of, to disguise truth, or guild falsehood; but a downright appeal to various living testimonies in the families both of my father and mother, being the strongest proof I can bring for the truth of what I have here asserted.

P R E F A C E.

XV

I am too well convinced what prejudice has been done me, from the artful insinuations spread abroad in regard to my birth, as well by the emissaries of my father, as by himself: he not having scrupled to deny, even before persons of the greatest rank and character in the kingdom, the identity of my being his son, declaring me in the face of the public an imposture, and thereby heaping additional odiums, upon the unhappy lady who fell a prey to his artifice, and owes, if possible, to his principles, more than ruin.

I will not take upon me in this place to confute such vile assertions, as the reader will find it done at full length in the beginning of the subsequent pages. Though it would have been sufficient for me, had I been able to produce no other proof than the ipsadixit, of my mother, whose family,

honour, and veracity, may at least be deemed equal to his; and whose voice in this important case, is all the law can ask, or the world require.

With the same spirit of truth, and to answer the same just purposes, it has assiduously been reported, that I am not detained at this gentleman's suit; and that he is ignorant who, or what I am. In answer to this, I refer the public to Mr. Eyles warden of his majesty's Fleet, who will inform them, I am detain'd in that prison, and at his suit, by the name of Thomas Plunkett; for no less a sum than six hundred and twenty pounds, from which I will infer, was this gentleman so ignorant of me as he would willingly have believed; would he ever have caused his attorney to advance me so considerable a sum as is pretended, upon no better security than my own bond: is there any person who
reads

P R E F A C E. xvii

reads this, would lend to Tom of Nokes or John of Stiles six hundred and twenty pounds, without any reason, and upon no account at all. I hope none of my readers, either are or ever will be infatuated with so strange, so unaccountable a specie of madness, and as the world is to judge by parity of reasoning I made bold to ask the above question.

In regard to the name of Thomas Plunkett, by which I am detained in prison; it will be necessary to observe upon my first coming to England, my father gave me that name, and would never permit any of his family to call me otherwise; the reason of which is evident, the name of my mother, being the same with his own, would subject both me and him to numberless enquiries, which could no ways redound either to his honour or credit; and which this method was esteemed

most proper to put a stop to. I since then have been compelled to sign all the pernicious bonds mentioned in the body of this work, by this fictitious name; which is the reason why I am charged under the same, as the warden's prisoner; but my mother's maiden name being Nugent, every reader will easily judge mine.

*It is natural to imagine the world will suppose, I must have been guilty of some enormous offences, which to make my own tale plausible, I have artfully endeavoured to conceal; otherwise, it will be said, how is it possible for a parent to extend the iron band of indignation, to such extreams of relentless cruelty against his own child. In answer to so reasonable a supposition, I here do most solemnly aver, in the face of both God and man, I am no ways conscious of offending this inexorable Father, further than what is truly
and*

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and ingenuously related in the following sheets, in which, whatever with the least shadow of justice, can come under the denomination of a crime, may be summed up in these few articles. First, my unwillingness to be put apprentice to a barber; secondly, my refusing to go valet to an East-India captain; and thirdly, my denying the name of Plunkett; in nothing else, am I sensible how I should incur my father's anger; until wearied by oppression, and urged by hunger, I undertook by the assistance of the charitable and humane, to publish the hardships of my case; and whether or no I have suffered sufficiently for the above errors, I leave to the decision of the impartial reader, whom now permit me sans ceremonie, to conduct to this tale of distress.

Be favourable, O ye criticks, it is the language of confinement, ye are

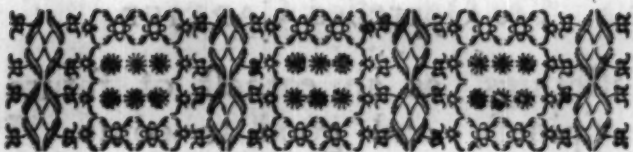
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*not to expect the beauties of diction
from a goal, or the elegancies of stile,
from the habitations of misery, but
what with justice you may demand as
your due, ye shall have, and that is
truth.*

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T H E



T H E
O P P R E S S E D C A P T I V E .

*Quaquam animus meminisse horret, Luctuque refugit ;
Incipiam.* VIRG.

 OWEVER unequal the dispensation of good and ill to mankind, the oppressive sufferings of innocence, and the triumph of guilt, may appear to superficial reasoners, and limited capacities ; it is evident to the eye of contemplation and philosophy, that eternal and infinite wisdom, will at his own proper time balance this seeming inequality. Happy within myself, that reason and religion dictate so pleasing a doctrine, I look upon my past, and present

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sufferings, as an earnest of future happiness, and good to come. I shall now proceed to the melancholy detail, and if in some places I am obliged to cast a shade over scenes of the deepest iniquity, beg the reader would look upon it as a sacrifice made by filial duty to the cause of my existence.

Tiberius Nugenius my father, is the son of *Sempronius Nugenius* of *Carlingstown* in the county of *Westmeath*, in the kingdom of *Ireland*, who had in his youth been honoured with a commission under that unfortunate prince, whose imprudent conduct reduced him to the fatal necessity of quitting these kingdoms, and abdicating the regal seat descended to him from a long line of illustrious ancestors: my mother's father was *Caius Attilius Nugenius* of *Donore* in the same county, and
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own brother to *Sempronius*. The strict friendship and intimacy betwixt the two families, occasioned the fatal correspondence of which I was the effect; *Cleora*, such is my mothers name, at the time when my father contracted his first acquaintance with her, was esteemed scarcely inferior to any in the kingdom for personal beauties, and liberally endow'd by nature, with every qualification capable of adding lustre to the fair sex; a young lady like her in the bloom of life, she being then not twenty years of age, could not fail of attracting the notice of all the genteel youth in the circle of the adjacent neighbourhood, in consequence of which, several advantageous offers were made, but none accepted.

Amongst the crowd of lovers enlisted under the fair one's standard,
was.

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was her kinsman young *Tiberius*, who having advantages superior to the rest, and actuated by the blind impulse of passion, to set aside the nearness of affinity, and regardless of friendship's sacred tie, was resolved to stick at nothing to attain his sinister ends, though conscious, should he succeed, inevitable ruin must be the result; and that he did succeed, is too true, though not before making use of the utmost subtilty, and as I have been informed the meanest artifices.

An intrigue carried on to such a length could not long be hid; the grief and confusion occasioned by the discovery of my mother's pregnancy exceeds description; *Tiberius*, my father was obliged to shelter himself from the just anger of his incensed relations, by absconding for some time; but at length making his appearance

pearance in *Dublin*, an eclaircissement happen'd betwixt him and *Portius Manlius*, *Cleora's* brother, at *Lucas's* coffee-house, which in all probability must have been fatal to one of the parties, had it not been for the interposition of a noble lord, happily then present, a near relation and an equal friend to both; by whose means it was agreed, *Tiberius* should repair the breach he had made, and re-unite the two families once more, by an honourable junction with the fair penitent, whose fortune was to be five thousand pounds, a sum at that time more than equivalent to his own estate: nevertheless in a few days, the young gentleman for reasons only known to himself, receded from all his fair promises, by deserting his friends, and quitting the kingdom hastily; a few posts acquainted them, that
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he was retired to *London*; so great was the grief and anxiety the disconsolate *Cleora* suffered at this unwelcome news, that it was very near proving a fatal stroke to her, had she not generously been comforted, under the heavy burthen of disappointment, poignant shame, and despair, by the tenderness, and endearments she met with from the sisters of her unkind and ungenerous seducer. Notwithstanding all their assiduous care, their tender officiousness to expel the grief which pray'd upon her mind, and consum'd the roses of her cheeks, was insufficient to prevent her privately eloping from her friends and relations, with a fixed resolution to find out the yet too much beloved author of her distress; accordingly, attended by her confessor, father *Lynch*, and a female servant the sole confident of her flight, she

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undertook the attempt, and arrived safe in *London*; it was not long before she found out the residence of her faithless betrayer, and soon made him acquainted with her being in town: but who can express the surprise, the indignation which must ensue, at finding herself disregarded in the most contemptuous manner, and her letters took no notice of, though she was too well assured of their being delivered into the ingrates own hand; in fine, distress and despair surrounded her, she was reduced so low, as to be under a necessity of pledging her watch and the few jewels she had with her to defray the expences of her lying-in.

O! ye fair creatures for whom the fatal seducer hath yet not spread his snare, who have had no occasion as yet to resist the delusive attack;

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tack; beware, how ye stray from the paths of honour, how ye decline from virtues sacred lore; nothing less than ruin and despair, can be the wretched consequence; and shame the last, the worst of evils, must be forever your perpetual attendant; in the soft, the tender moment, when honour seems to nod, when the most persuasive rhetoric is employ'd to level the bulwarks of virtue; arouse, open your eyes and look with disdain, upon a wretch prepared to cloath ye in misery, and conduct ye to scenes of everlasting infamy and ruin, remember the unhappy *Cleora*, and beware how ye follow her steps.

In this dismal situation without parent, without husband or friend, to comfort her; in the agonies of childbed was she deliver'd of me in the year 1730, in the parish of St. George

George, Hanover-square; under such complicated distress she must have sunk, had not *Metellus Delius*, a relation, affected by a true sense of pity, supported both by money and the most friendly advice, the fallen fair one.

My unhappy birth was too well known to be denied; *Cornelia*, daughter of *Priscus Aufidius*, and wife of *Cethegus Mervinus*, one of my godmothers, is the person, who in the city of *Dublin* acquainted me with all the incidents I now relate, in the presence of *Mariamne* and *Sempronia*, my fathers sisters, and ladies to whom I am under the greatest obligations.

Metellus Delvius extended his kindness yet farther, he not only persuaded my mother to return to *Ireland*, but as a mediator paved the way for a proper reception, generously

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ously supplied her with one hundred guineas to defray the necessary expences of her voyage, and discharge her lodging; in short, thro' his means, she returned once more to her native country, and the arms of her disconsolate relations.

grand There was nothing now left but to dispose of me, the innocent effect of my parents errors, as it was esteemed improper to keep me in the family: I was immediately sent to nurse at a small village called *Castle-Pollard*, some miles from *Donore*, my fathers country-seat, where no other notice from time to time was taken of me, than recompensing the poor woman who had charge of me, for her trouble.

When I was three years old, I was put under the care of *Lynch*, the roman priest, who had attended upon my mother, in her voyage
to

to, and distress in *England*; this was in the town of *Galway*, with whom I remained till I was nine or ten years old: it is here to be observed, that during my residence with *Lynch*, my father paid him ten pounds a year for my board, &c. as I have had the pleasure since then of seeing several of the receipts, and can testify it from my own knowledge: my grandfather *Sempronius Nugenius*, having been, as I said before, a military officer in his juvenile years, and in consequence of which known to people of every class, by the name and title of captain, was a man actuated by principles of goodness and humanity, and famous amongst the neighboring poor for his extensive charity; he frequently and strenuously recommended to his son, the closing of the breach, which his dishonourable proceed-

ceedings had occasioned between the two families; by him I was often kindly visited whilst under the tuition of father *Lynch*; and notwithstanding my then tender years, I still remember the frequent admonitions, the strict orders given by the good old gentleman to the priest, concerning me; and have seen the big tear overflow its banks, whilst he delivered the salutary charge; forgive me reader, should I in return stop a moment, whilst gratitude and nature, pay the tribute of a tear, to the memory of an humane and good man.

This gentleman, who during his life, was excessive fond of me, conscious of the distraction occasioned in his brother's family, by the ever to be lamented misfortune which gave me being, and the just resentment my father had thereby drawn
upon

upon himself, giving due reason to apprehend I might fall an innocent victim to the growing animosities between the two houses, being also no stranger to my father's disposition, and looking with an eye of commiseration upon my truly precarious and pitiable condition, became particularly solicitous about my future welfare; and falling sick, the nature of his indisposition indicating small hopes of his recovery, he daily called upon my father for his assurance to make me a suitable provision, otherwise he would do it himself; my father as often solemnly protesting he would in every respect fulfil his just, his humane intentions; the old gentleman confiding in these fallacious promises, made himself quite easy, and dying suddenly soon after, left me nothing.

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It was not long before my grandmother, his relict followed him; but on her death-bed at *Bath*, labouring under equal concern on my account, and imagining it might be conducive to my interest hereafter, should she remind my father of his solemn engagements to her deceased husband, and likewise join her own intreaties; she in the presence of *Accia Lucilia*, another of my father's sisters now living, and to whom I here appeal, earnestly besought him with her latest breath, to fulfil such his engagements to his deceased father, and make a proper provision for me, which in his sisters hearing he gave repeated assurances he would most punctually perform; but alas! how far he did the sequel will demonstrate.

From this point of time, I may date the origin of all my future miseries;

series; I was now removed from *Galway* to *Dublin*, and put under the care of one *Fagan*, who kept an academy in *Wine-Tavern-Street*, at which place my father and most of the family had been educated.

Here I must observe, as the allowance granted by my father exceeded not ten pounds *per ann.* to find me with board, schooling, books, &c. I was subject to very bad usage, being incessantly taunted with the insufficiency of such mean pay, and was moreover rendered less happy, by means of a misfortune which lay heavy not only on me, but my school fellows in general, which was as follows:

A certain person whose authority in the house was not little, being terribly addicted to drinking, hesitated not to make use of the basest means, to attain the intoxicating juice;

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juice ; day after day our books, hats, buckles, and what not, went to wrack ; for which, as no account could be given, we were fure to smart severely ; at length, the thief was detected, but in lieu of being relieved, our distress was only increased by the discovery ; how dared the subtil young villains impose so gross a falshood upon him ? was he to be deceived by so shallow an artifice ? in short, the blows were not only heavier, but more frequent, occasioned by numberless lies invented through a motive of revenge.

But length of time produced so flagrant a proof that the most partial eyes could no longer be kept closed ; a pair of new buckskin breeches, he had scarcely worn a week, were artfully convey'd away from under his pillow, a theft of this nature would not long bear secrecy,

crefy, an advertisement was published in the daily papers, which soon produced the breeches from a wardrobe in *Plunket Street*, (a street where all sorts of old, and second hand cloaths are bought and sold, being little inferior in business of that kind to *Monmouth-street* in *London*) and brought the thing so home to the Party we had so often accused in vain, as would admit of no excuse.

The consequence was very severe reprimands, from most of the boys parents, and the decrease of his school, by others taking theirs away; in short, so great was his vexation at his Business declining, together with the various intemperancies and irregularities he daily more and more experienc'd, as sometime afterwards to cut short the thread of his life, and force him to seek that peace in

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the grave, which he could not find upon earth.

Before I proceed any farther, it is necessary to observe, that about the time of my being put under the care of *Lynch*, my father was married to his first wife, the lady *Amelia Plunetta*, daughter of *Publius Sulpitius*, a lady posses'd of every amiable quality, by which he has a son now living, who I can make bold to say from woeful experience, inherits not a single qualification of his noble mother; the delivery of this unworthy burthen cost the unhappy lady her life; who on her sick bed touched with the deepest sense of my mothers misfortunes; laid her dying injunctions upon my father, as soon as decency would permit to repair to the Injured fair one; and if joining with her in the indissoluble knot, would be accepted as a satisfaction

faction for the irreparable crimes he had been guilty of, and unite the families his want of honour had divided, to make no delay, but do that justice to himself and family, he had so long retarded. An injunction imposed upon him at so awful a time, he could not withstand promising to perform.

Some time after her decease, he was not wanting in his endeavours, to fulfil the sacred vow he had entered into, for which purpose, he sent a letter to my mother confessing his deep concern for the injuries done to her in particular, and the family in general; his sincere regret, for the sorrows, miseries and confusion of which he had been sole author, begging she would deign to look upon the returning convert, and accept of the utmost satisfaction he was capable of giving.

Before the letter could well be deliver'd to her hands, he followed it himself from *Dublin*, and went down in his Chariot to *Donore-House* about forty miles distant, with a fixed resolution of observing to a point the contents of what he had wrote; but how vast his astonishment, when he arrived there to receive a message by a footman, expressing the due regards of the house for the honour he intended them, but that to-morrow evening, had for sometime been fixed to make *Cleora* happy in the arms of *Catulus Obrien*, a Gentleman of considerable fortune, and universal character; unhappy for me it was too true, and my father ill at ease returned immediately to *Dublin*.

I shall here beg leave to take notice, that for the two or three last years of my being at the academy,
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my father totally neglected me, and my support had entirely proceeded from the bounty of my mothers relations, though I was never permitted to pay my respects to any of them; on the contrary my fathers sisters, took particular notice of me, sent for me on holidays to their own house, in *Smithfield*, where I usually dined and spent the whole day along with them: *Mariamne* would not scruple to take me along with her and her sisters, to plays and publick places, and was always particularly fond of me.

In this place it will not be improper to observe, had not the whole family esteemed me as the son of *Tiberius*, which he has since for some diabolical reasons attempted to denie, would they have paid that regard, that deference to me in the face of the world, I have just now

mentioned ; as these ladies are all alive at this time, I make no doubt in spite of the natural byass of affection, if asked the question they will impartially confirm every thing I have said.

Would my grandfather and his lady have made it a point in their dying hour, when nothing but affairs of the greatest moment, and most solemn nature are attended to, and when the soul superior to all sublunary things, pays a regard to nothing but the strictest truth ; would they I say, at such a time, and in so awful a manner, have laid their injunctions upon their only son, to make a suitable provision for me, had they not esteemed me as a portion of his flesh and blood.

To his own kindred I appeal, as living testimonies of what I have hitherto related, and to the publick
for

for their impartial decision in this important case; what chicanery, what fallacious arguments, have not been made use of to screen truth, and hide her from the world; but her refulgent face cannot long be conceal'd; anon, she bursts out in a blaze of glory, from the clouds which obscur'd her, and the utmost efforts of malice, and detraction, are no longer able to stand in her divine presence.

I make no doubt to the considerate, and attentive reader, the irrational proceedings of my father will appear as issuing from the meridian of *Moorfields*, and not from the cool dictates of a man remarkable for good sense, and a knowledge of the world, may the evil effect included in that line of an ancient poet, in his case, be averted, which says,

Quem Deus vult Perdere, prius dementat.

Being advanced as far as my tenth year, and my mothers relations not caring to be at the expences of supporting me any longer, and as I was now of an age, sufficient to be introduced to business of some kind or other, or should it be judged proper to devote me to any of the learned professions, endowed with natural talents, such as in time might probably elevate me above the common crowd, and make me conspicuous to the world; it was determined to send me over to my father in *England*, that I might reap the benefit of the solemn engagements he had entered into at the request of his dying parents, on my account; but not certain what kind of a reception

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I might meet with, my mother who had now for some time been married to *Catulus Brien* consented to furnish me with a certificate of my birth, drawn out in the following manner.

{ *I do hereby certify that C. S. Nugenius the bearer, is the real son of Tiberius Nugenius of Gosfield, in the county of Essex, as witness my hand.*
Cleora Brien.

Witness Eleonora Dardis.

This Certificate my mother signed as above, in the presence of the witness mention'd, who was a near relation, and lived with her at that time.

Having received this testimony of my birth, I set out from *Ireland* in company with a young Gentleman

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son of counsellor *Charlton*, and one of my school-fellows : when arrived at *Chester*, we had the happiness to meet with *Henry Bond Esq* ; who also was just arrived from *Dublin* and going to *London*, he was kind enough to increase our little travelling store, which by reason of our being unacquainted with the impositions so frequently made use of upon the high-roads, was already fell short ; he gave a particular charge to one *Bolton*, master of a *London* carriage, to take the utmost care of us, and as he should be sometime in *London* before us, generously promised to visit us at our inn, the *Castle* in *Aldersgate-street*, the same day we should get into town, and give his young travellers, as he was pleased to call us, what further assistance he should then find requisite.

Happy

Happy was it for us, we accidentally met with so kind, so humane a friend, otherwise we must have found ourselves in the deepest distress, for a few minutes after our arrival in *London*, he came and acquainted us, that neither master *Charlton's* father, or mine were in town; gave directions where to write to them, and a fresh supply of money, with strict orders to our landlord not to let us want for any thing.

According to the instructions I had received from this gentleman, I wrote that very night to my father, but was kept in suspense two or three days before I heard any thing in return; when late one evening, a post chaise drove violently into the inn yard, a lusty tall gentleman, wrap'd up in a horseman's coat, immediately step'd out, and coming into the house, in a voice the tone of which

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which, not being modulated in the mildest strain, convey'd no very favourable opinion of the speaker to the ideas of the standers by, thus address'd himself to the lord of the *Castle*; have you got friend in your custody a white headed boy from *Ireland*? yes, why then do you not bring him? you never implied so much before, was returned; if you was not stupid friend, there could have been no necessity to explain myself any farther; you might speak a little civiler, howsomever replied the landlord, but a horse as never eat oats, one cannot expect to——he was proceeding when the gentleman's wide coat turning aside accidentally discover'd the blaze of a broad gold lace, which had hitherto been conceal'd, the sight of which had such an effect upon the publican, as to make him forget the remaining part
of

of his course proverb, and elevating his voice a degree higher, why *Tim* do not you light his honour up stairs, as you see he is in such haste, what would your honour please to have brought up? bring a bottle of wine, a bottle of wine to the rose this moment, please your honour permit me to light you up.

Such was this dialogue, which with an aching heart I listned attentively too on the stair head.

Upon entering the room, set down the wine friend and retire, which being complied with, he drew a chair, and calling me from the corner of the room where I was retired, and biting the ends of my fingers through fear, well my boy says he, you come from *Ireland* I suppose? yes, Sir, I replied, some days ago, ah, ah, your tongue betrays that sufficiently, who is your father?

Tiberius

Tiberius Nugenius of *Gosfield* Sir; who told you that boy? you must be mistaken, that gentleman informs me otherwise: I was always esteemed as such in *Ireland*, both by his relations and my mothers; all lies, all lies, said he with half a smile, and pouring out a glass of wine, come drink, I suppose you can drink, if *Tiberius* is your father you can drink; after I had drank, if you are the person you say, and that I came to enquire after, you have the mark of a deep scar, occasion'd by a burn, on the left side your belly; which was no sooner said, than pulling me to him, he took out my shirt, and having seen the distinguishing characteristick, it is all right said he, and after a considerable pause, ordered me to ring the bell.

The landlord coming up, do you know me was asked? no Sir, what says

says he, don't you know esquire *Forbes* of *Dover-street*? though I know the street very well, I cannot say, I have knowledge of any such gentleman, well says he, calling him aside in a whisper loud enough for me to hear, my name is *Nugentius*, but for some private reasons do not chuse the youth should be made acquainted with it as just yet, then raising his voice, and at the same time drawing out his purse, here landlord, said he, is some money, do you procure the youth some cloths, more suitable to appear in, than what are on his back, I shall call again in a few days, and satisfy you for your trouble, in the mean time as I have no further occasion for you, you are at liberty to go down stairs.

When left to ourselves, addressing himself to me, have you brought along

along with you no letters from your mother, and friends in *Ireland*? none Sir, I replied, excepting a certificate of my birth, wrote by my mother, which I no sooner produced, than he snatched it from me, and with an air of seeming indifference, not without symptoms of anger, tore it to pieces, saying, as this idle paper will be of no use but to exasperate *Nugenius* against you, think me your friend in destroying it, be cautious what you say, and expect to hear more in a little time, which was no sooner said, than he went away, and left me to reflect upon my melancholy situation.

Some days after this, one Mr. *Bristow* a perriwig-maker in *St. Alban's-street*, came to the inn, with orders from my father, to discharge the small arrears due to the landlord, and take me along with him to his

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own house : I soon found it had been determined that this *Bristow* should take me as an apprentice; and was to receive as a premium at my being bound, fifty pounds, for initiating me in the profound art, and mysteries of which he was a professor.

Conscious my own abilities would never let me attain to the degree of an adept, in this noble science, and after some days spent at the powder tub, I with great difficulty prevail'd upon my father, to extricate me out of the suds, and rather than compel me to depend upon so mean a business for my future subsistence, a business so much inferior to the rank and character of both my parents, as well as my education ; to give me the liberty of serving his majesty on board one of his ships of war, tho' it were in the meanest capacity, I was the more emboldend to ask this
favour,

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favour, as such a proposal had been made me some time before.

This request of mine with seeming reluctance, at length was granted: the station procur'd me, though no greater than that of captains servant, as it was the gift of my generous father, I chearfully accepted of. In which capacity, sometime afterwards I embarked on board his majesty's ship the *Windsor* of sixty guns, capt. *Thomas Hannaway* commander, not in the least doubting from my fathers affluent fortune I should in every respect be suitably equip'd for the service I was now engaged in.

With this persuasion I took leave of my father, who as a fresh proof of his affection, sent me by the hands of his valet, one *Christopher Cannon*; a present of five shillings, no doubt to bear my expences down
to

to *Plymouth*; in the same proportion, he extended his liberality to my sea-chest, which not being stored with one half the compliment usual on such occasions, would have proved quite insufficient, had it not been for the generosity and kindness of the captain, who out of compassion, ordered his own taylor to furnish me with what was wanting.

It luckily happen'd, that Mr. *Bigley* the captains steward, at this time being obliged to attend a waggon loaden with stores for the captains use, down to *Plymouth*, I was put under his care, and when arrived at my journeys end, was immediately sent on board.

During the short time I was on the watery element, I had twice the pleasure of seeing my country triumph in her native ocean, being present at the

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the destruction of two *French* fleets in the same year, the first, by those experienced commanders Lord *Anson*, and Sir *Peter Warren*, and the second, by the never too much esteemed and gallant admiral *Hawke*.

As the defeat of these fleets, and the capture of so many fine ships, the distress of the *Gallick*, and the glory of the *British* flag, in that remarkable year, cannot be unknown to any of my readers, I shall set aside giving any account of those glorious actions, and proceed to myself.

On my return to *England*, at the conclusion of the late general peace, being discharged from my ship, and desirous of giving the most early testimonies of my duty and obedience, I waited upon my father, and presented him with my letter of attorney, to receive my prize money

ney, which amounted to a considerable sum, and frequently on my future visits, humbly entreated him to make some other provision for me.

Sometime after, my father informed me, he had procured me a birth, in the honourable *East-India* company, which he called a lieutenant of an *India* craft, and upon which station I was immediately to enter, but several circumstances which had lately occurred, giving me no small room to suspect the integrity of my father's intentions, and strongly pointing out to me, the necessity of the greatest circumspection: I had recourse to the advice of friends, who recommended it to me, to enquire into the nature of such a station, and the reality of my father's having procured it for me.

Accord-

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Accordingly, I made application to some gentleman in the *India-House*, and quickly found the prudence of such precaution; being informed, I was to be enrolled by the fictitious name of *Thomas Plunkett*, and in no other station, than that of captain's servant as before, the astonishment I was seized with, at the discovery of so dark a design in my own father, I may justly say, exceeds description; for what had I not to apprehend, from so suspicious a circumstance: but alas! this was only the prologue to such scenes of inhumanity, as no christian ear can hear without amazement, or story parallel. The strange name of *Plunkett*, occasion'd the greatest confusion in my breast, a name I had never assumed, but on the contrary was an utter stranger to, except so far as knowing it to be the maiden
name

name of my father's first lady. however, I resolved to conceal my apprehensions as much as possible, and only express my aversion to the voyage, and in the most humble manner entreated, he would be pleased to make some other provision for me; but finding my father inflexible in his resolution, and that I could promise myself but small success from my intreaties, I plainly acquainted him with the discovery I had made at the *India-House*, and the information I had from thence received. Stung at the discovery, and looking upon his designs, at least for that time frustrated, he burst out in the extremest rage denounced vengeance against me, for my disobedience as he termed it, banished me his presence, and charged me to approach him, or his house no more at my peril!

As

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As soon as I was recover'd from the confusion this hard sentence plunged me in. I besought him to let me have part of my prize money, for my subsistence, but that, this inexorable parent also denied, alledging it was insufficient to repay the expences, he had been at, in bringing me up: thus in a moment surrounded with penury and distress, without parent, without friend, exposed to the wide world, beset with ills, covered with misfortunes, and drove by a torrent of despair; what could I do, I had heard that his late royal highness the *Prince of Wales*, tho' placed in too exalted a sphere to be acquainted with the common calamities and distresses of human nature, was possessed of a heart susceptible of every tender impression, and a ready hand always stretch'd out to raise up affliction from the dust,

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or succour with liberal bounty the pangs of unmerited distress, to him, my father being then steward of his household; I determin'd most humbly to address myself, and lay the detail of my sorrows at his feet, which I accordingly did, when his most royal highness, upon enquiry into the truth of my case, was most graciously pleas'd to order me an immediate supply, and also condescended to lay his commands on my father, to provide for me as in duty he ought. But my father was so greatly incens'd at this application, that regardless of his royal injunctions, he was now resolv'd to set no bounds to his persecution.

I lodg'd at the *George-Inn* in the *Hay-Market*, when early one morning, who should pay me a visit, but my *quondam* friend the perriwig-maker; a man dedicated to my fa-

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ther's

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ther's purposes, and made use of by him, as an instrument to execute his unnatural designs against his own child. This humane gentleman, covering his fraudulent intent, under the cloak of friendship, after passing the common salutation, told me the purpose of his coming was to acquaint me, that *Tiberius* in person intended to call upon me at eleven, and that he certainly had something in view, very advantageous to my interest, which would then be communicated, so desired me not to be absent at the time appointed, highly animated with so uncommon a mark of my father's kindness, my bosom glowed with gratitude, and I ardently wished for the hour, that would permit me at his feet, to implore his pity, and ask his benediction; the long expected hour at length arrived, and every moment

moment encreased my anxiety ; the rapturous tumult which agitated my mind, at the hopes of meeting, so unexpectedly meeting, a kind relenting parent, far exceeds the description of the most fervent pen, and nothing but the indelible characters which nature hath stamped upon the human soul, can possibly give a true idea of.

As I sat in my window, with a soul full of expectation, my heart rebounded at the sound of every coach, and my eyes were attentively fix'd upon the remotest chair in view; the sound of a person enquiring for *Nugenius* at length, struck my ears, I hurried down stairs, and the sight of a great bluff fellow, with an iron countenance, struck an immediate damp all over me, where is the gentleman? that is *Nugenius* was answered from the barr, then Sir I

have some business with you, a letter Sir ; and calling me into the entry, a gentleman whom you claim a near relation too, says he, with a gasty smile, sends you this letter, which drawing forth from a greasy pocket-book, he added ; is without farther ceremony, neither more nor less than a warrant, you must go along with me this instant before justice *Fielding* ; incapable of answering, I was dragged through the publick streets in an inhuman manner, to the magistrates house in *Bow-street Covent-Garden* ; the justice was no sooner informed of my being there, than a messenger was sent to acquaint my father, who immediately attended ; on his arrival, I was directly ordered in, which order was countermanded, till a conference was ended, which my father had desired ; at length being ordered admittance,

I was

I was thus addressed by his worship.

How come you Sir to be troublesome to this gentleman? in the midst of my confusion, I replied, he was my father, and hope he will be kind enough to do something for me, so far as to relieve me from my present distress; whereupon my father turning short to the justice, he said Sir 'twill be better to send the fellow to *Bridewell*, than be troubled with his impertinence; terrified with the dread of a prison, I fell on my knees and offered to comply with any thing that should be proposed, my father then applying himself to Mr. *Fielding*, said, Sir I am eternally teased both in public and in private about him; and never shall be at ease, till he is locked up; adding in the most unbecoming language, those B——ch's of Quality, either feel

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for him, or pretend to do so, to such a degree that the perpetual larum now sounds in my ear; the justice casting his eyes upon me, seeming to be mov'd, expressed some signs of lenity and compassion; and the whole tenour of my father's actions towards me, which encouraged by him, I gave a full account of, appearing perfectly cruel and inhumane, not only he, but several other gentlemen then present, generously became intercessors with my father in my behalf, whereupon he proposed giving me ten pounds, upon condition I should instantly go to *Ireland*, where he agreed to remit me the same sum annually, for four years to come, but that I should in presence execute a bond for the whole fifty pounds, to this I agreed, received the ten pounds, and executed the bond in the penalty of one hundred pounds,

pounds, with a special covenant for my immediate departure, which when I signed *Nugenius*, he struck out, and obliged me to sign by the feigned name of *Thomas Plunkett*, though the justice was kind enough to remonstrate with him upon that head, by reason the warrant had been filled up with *Nugenius*, but in vain.

Being by this means delivered from the warrant; pursuant to the engagement, in a few days I embarked for *Ireland*, comforting myself with the hopes of a better fortune, and that by my industry and application in some business or other, I might be able to procure a decent support, the aforesaid allowance had it been paid me, being barely sufficient to keep me from starving.

On my arrival in *Ireland*, I immediately addressed myself to all those,

from whose generosity or compassion, I could hope the least favour or assistance, informed them of my earnest desire of entering into some business, and it was no small consolation to me, to find my intentions approved, and amongst others, the honorable colonel *Mac Giure*, a relation of my mother's assisted me in a particular manner, to get the better of my misfortunes, by procuring me a handsome largess from my mother, which out of his own bounty, he increased to a sum of thirty pounds.

I had likewise about this time, the happiness of meeting with my old friend Mr. *Bond*, at the *Globe-Coffee-House* in *Essex-Street Dublin*, whose humane regards to me, I can never sufficiently acknowledge, to whom I related the barbarous treatment I had met with in *London*, which he
heard

heard not without amazement. By his advice, I made it my business to look out for a shop, properly situated for the sale of groceries in *Dame-Street*.

I soon found one fit for the purpose, I acquainted Mr. *Bond* therewith, who was so kind as to recommend me to the notice of Mr. *Brennan*, a merchant in *Aungier-Street*: the money I now was possessed of amounting through the bounty of Mr. *Bond*, to almost forty pounds, was laid out in repairing the shop, and the remaining part was expended in purchasing my stock, Mr. *Brennan* generously giving me credit for as much more.

Being thus placed behind my compters, my thoughts began to stream in a different current, I flattered myself, by an assiduous application to my business, I might ac-

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quire a comfortable support, not doubting, but absence, and the insignificant charge I should now be to my father, was he to perform his engagements in the annual allowance, might rid me of all apprehensions for the future, of farther cruelties from his hands; and who would not have entertained the same opinion, but how insatiable is a persecuting spirit, no testimonies of an industrious disposition, nor the laudable desire of endeavouring, by assiduously prosecuting the business of my little shop, to be capable of supporting myself, could protect me from my father's restless malice, which now began its rapid progress.

About three weeks after I was settled in business, two ill looking men came into my shop, and asking for some brandy, were no sooner served, than one of them said, I
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suppose Sir your name is *Nugenius*, I answered in the affirmative, I shall make bold to change it then by virtue of a writ, which being immediately produced, struck me with such amazement, that I lost the use of speech for some time: you don't know one *Tiberius Nugenius*, continued he, at the same time pointing to where the name was wrote, nor you don't remember the fifty pounds you borrowed, and then run away with. No, no, you don't remember all this, to be sure; I answered, I hope gentlemen, my father did not order you to abuse me in the execution of your office; arrah, by my shoul, but you are not your father's son, wisely returned the other, for your name is *Plunkett*, but what matters all this jaw, come along, come along to your new lodging. I entreated earnestly for a few minutes to secure

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my books, and shut up my shop, but was in most abusive language denied, one of the inhumane catchpoles seizing me by the collar, would not permit me even to take what little money I had in my till, but dragged me without ceremonie, to that mansion of wretchedness, the *Black Dog Prison*; the bond which I executed before the justice in *London*, being the instrument made use of to lodge me in this dismal place, it having been in *Dublin* as long as myself.

Resolved to act with the utmost honour I directly sent an account to Mr. *Brennan* the merchant, of the sad reverse in my affairs, desiring he would sell all my effects, pay himself the sum he had so kindly gave me credit for, and return the ballance to me; all which he performed, and justly accounted with me, nor did
his

his favours stop here; for I daily experienced them during my confinement.

Eight months did I pass away in this goal, liberty appearing in the same point of view as at first. abandoned by my relations, I had almost said by hope itself the last resort of wretchedness, and in the most destitute and abject condition; when it pleased Almighty Goodness to look down upon my distress, and to take away from the weight of my oppression, by inspiring the hearts of a noble earl, and an honourable lady, to compassionate my sufferings, and extricate me from this abyss of misery; in short, they most generously enabled me to give bail for the action, of which intention, I no sooner gave notice of, according to the due course of law, to Mr. *Brady* the attorney, culled out by my father, as
most

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most proper to conduct these honorable proceedings, O might the gain of such honour, be the only reward of such pains: but he the more effectually to recommend himself to his employer, by further oppressing the oppressed, charged me with a second action, of one hundred pounds, being the penalty of the said bond, wickedly imagining though I might find bail for fifty, I could not for a hundred and fifty; but this was too flagrant an instance of cruelty to deter my generous friends from their charitable design, who persisting in their compassionate resolutions, I was at length by their means, once more restored to liberty.

About two days after my release from confinement, I accidentally met Mr. *Robert Nument*, my father's agent, at the *Globe-Coffee-House* in *Dublin*, with whom I remonstrated

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on my father's proceedings against me, the unparalell'd cruelty of barbarously, and unjustly throwing me into a goal, when I was in a capacity genteely to have supported myself, without making any further application to him; and my being then though out of prison, still destitute of every means of support.

This gentleman seeing me at liberty, and sensible should I contest that bond, on which I had been detained, I should certainly succeed, and imagining he could not more easily gain my father's esteem, (being no stranger to his cruel disposition) then by displaying his art in contriving some further means of oppressing me, hit upon the following method, he affected a great concern at my sufferings, and made a voluntary offer of his utmost services, confessed the treatment I had met with, was really
very

very hard, and expressed an inclination to assist me with a sum of money, could he but form to himself, a probability of being repaid, and at length, said he would venture to advance me ten pounds, and run the risque. But I replied, that sum would be of no service to me; that I owed some small matters, which I was desirous of paying, and intended to embark for *Bristol*, in order to entreat the advice and assistance of my brother *Tiberinus Nugenius*, who I heard was then there; I was likewise in great want of apparel; therefore less than twenty pounds would not answer my ends, with little persuasion, this generous and humane gentleman complied, instigated by the father of hypocrisy and lies, artfully to conceal under the cloak of humanity, designs of the blackest nature; not suspecting his diabolical

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cal intentions, and labouring under the greatest anxiety of mind, as well as the most pinching necessity, I was induced to accept this pernicious offer, and executed a bond for the same, in which was inserted, a penalty of one thousand pounds; this bond he immediately transmitted to my father in *England*, to be ready for the intended purpose of immuring me again in prison at his pleasure.

Having received this money, paid my few debts, and provided myself with some necessaries; I embarked for the city of *Bristol*, and on my arrival there, I waited on my brother, to whom I related my sufferings, and intreated his good offices with my father for obtaining me a restoration to his favour, not being conscious of having forfeited it any otherwise, than by declining his proposal to go to the *East-Indies*, and by petitioning his

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his royal highness the *Prince of Wales*, in my great distress, and if these were crimes, they were such only as real distress had occasioned, though I had been persecuted for them with relentless fury; therefore earnestly hoped a brother's sufferings would meet pity,—but alas! how greatly was I disappointed, pity and compassion were banished his breast, and his behaviour proved him an intire stranger to the common principles of humanity.

Our first meeting was attended with pretty high words, however, he at length condescended so far as to bid me call on him the next day, accordingly in the morning I waited upon him.

He sent for me up stairs, being yet in bed, though the sun had already gained his highest ascent; he threw open the curtains, and I was im-

immediately complimented with, how come you Sir, to be troublesome so early? I thought Sir you ordered me to wait upon you this morning; what if I did, says he, is that a reason why you should hunt me before I am out of bed, what do you want, what do you plague me for? Sir, I replied, setting aside the ties of affinity, which you are pleased to deny, though all the rhetorick you are master of, will never be able to overpower truth, or persuade the world, one man is not our father; let the force of humanity plead for me, stand betwixt me and my father's anger, mitigate his wrath, and let me not be tost about the world destitute of support, and have no place to lay my head, if not to me, be just at least to your father, and yourself; prevent the world from censuring, I was proceeding in this
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manner, but was interrupted, with, no methodist sermon, no preaching, Oon's, what would the man have? what is not Sir in your power to give, humane usage; I think I am overstocked, both with humanity and patience, to hear a detail of such stuff; but I suppose the truth is, you come upon the old errand you have so often teized my father with; money friend, money, now for a modest request, how much want you; Sir it is too true, I have no money to carry me up to *London*, what you think proper for that purpose, will do me at present the greatest service; *Tom*, give him pen and ink; write a receipt friend; for what sum Sir? stay now I think better of it, I will do it myself, give me the paper, he wrote upon the pillow, and delivered it to me to sign; I read as follows, I promise to
pay

pay to *Tiberinus Nugenius* or order, on demand, the sum of one guinea for value received: I took no notice of this amazing sum, but coolly taking up the pen, set my name to the paper, then taking up the piece betwixt my finger and thumb, I said, this Sir, I shall take care to preserve, as a perpetual memorandum of paternal affection, and to what an excess of liberality; the force of humanity is capable of urging such a tender hearted man as my brother *Tiberinus*; I said no more, but turning short, left the room without any further ceremony.

He wrote an account to my father in *London*, by the next post, of my being in *Bristol*, and the usage he had met with from me, the bond he had received from *Ireland*, was immediately transmitted to *Tiberinus*, with a writ thereupon against me, in
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the penalty of one thousand pounds, on non payment; and, the cup of my Afflictions not being by him thought full enough, another goal was now to be my portion; but as if my being conducted to prison in the ordinary manner was not enough to satisfy the most implacable malice, my good brother willing to recommend himself to my father, by some distinguishing act of inhumanity, condescended to perform the office of a bailiff's setter, in the following manner: a few mornings after, our afore-said conference; as I was walking solitarily towards the *Hot-Wells*, musing upon my melancholy situation, I unexpectedly met in the road my evil genius, he checked his reins upon sight of me, and called me to him, hark you Sir, says he, meet me at the breakfasting room, about ten o'clock to-morrow, and you shall hear

hear of something to your advantage, before you fail not being there at the time, because I am obliged to attend business in another place before eleven; I promised to be punctual, and he spurred on.

The next morning I failed not my appointment, where I met him according to promise; he retired along with me into a private room, and called for two dishes of coffee; the discourse at length settling upon the old affair, his base insinuations, and indecent reflections on my mother, compelled some warm words from me; seeming stung with the smartness of one of my answers, he took the opportunity of rising up, and striking the table with great violence, in an elevated voice; said, then you rascal if nothing can tame you, but confinement, you shall have sufficient of it, at which instant the door
open-

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opening, Mr. *Rhodes* the baliff attended by one of his followers came in, and laid hold of me; several gentlemen who were in the adjacent rooms, upon hearing the bustle we now made, entered our apartment, and enquiring into the cause of the disturbance, my brother replied, an insolent rascal I have laid by the heels for a small action of a thousand pounds, is become obstreperous take the fellow away officer, take him away. Fye fye, said a gentleman, which if I rightly remember, was Mr. *Crosby*, addressing himself to my brother, if you won't relieve the poor young fellow, don't use him in this barbarous manner, tell me not Sir of barbarity, the villain ought to be gibbited alive, for imposing himself upon the public as my brother; brother or not brother, he is your very picture by G—d, re-
turned

turned Mr. *Crosby*, and I would at least have so much regard for a glass that represented me in such perfection, as not to destroy it—you are at will to jest Mr. *Crosby* as much as you please, but I have my father's express commands for what I do, and sink me, but to goal he shall go, should all the world interceed for him; but in what light must the public look upon you *Nugenius*, if you descend so low as to personate the vile character of a bailiff's follower? said one Mr. *Lynch*, who was now one of the crowd, retrieve this false step, and let the young man go about his business; let him go officer; that Sir, I cannot do, said Mr. *Rhodes*, who had hold of me still, but if *Nugenius*, says the word, in presence of all these worthy gentlemen, I will with the greatest pleasure release him, and ask nothing

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thing for my trouble, for by G—d the writ would have laid dormant in my pocket these seven years had not he compelled me to do my office, by setting the man himself: you are an insolent rascal, replied my brother, and deserve to be well caned,—the rascal you may take to yourself, and as to the caning part, I wish you had courage to attempt it; during this altercation, I sat drowned in tears, confused, and even stupefied at the sudden stroke; when one of the gentlemen coming to me, kindly asked me, if I had any money, which I answering in the negative, he applied himself to my compassionate kinsman, in this manner; *Nugenius*, the unhappy young fellow is destitute of cash, I hope you intend not to add to your inhumanity, by sending him penniless to so dismal a place, Mr. *Rhodes* be
so

so good as to inform the young gentleman, what money will be wanted to keep the poor man from starving; let him starve and be damn'd, was returned,— and without money replies the officer, starve he must, and worse damn'd he cannot be, then when he finds himself at his entrance into prison, surrounded by a group of meagre wretches, demanding the tribute of five shillings for what they call garnish, it being customary to make a deposit of that directly, part of which, is applied to the purchase of coals, and the remainder to allay the drought of throats seldom gratified with any thing superior to simple element; if the money is not paid, he certainly undergoes the ceremony of stripping, and is left to starve without pity, and without redress; neither is there in this place

any allowance of bread, so usual in other prisons.

The standers by were all affected with a sense of the miseries I was doomed to suffer: no entreaties were wanting, but all in vain; for the boisterous sea, in the rage of hurricanes might sooner be supplicated to listen to the prayers of sinking navigators, than this inhuman composition of pride, cruelty and malice be persuaded to turn an ear, to the dictates of pity and compassion; the gentlemen to crown all their favours generously made a collection for me, to which this humane officer, who had me in his charge, contributed half a guinea; I mention this with more pleasure, as there are but few instances of such humanity to be found, in people of his station: we set out soon after for *Gloucester*, where I was resigned up the following

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ing evening to the care of Mr. *Benjamin Hemmings*, keeper of the castle.

Thus the reader finds me once more plunged in the horrors of a goal, and surrounded with circumstances of the deepest distress; for after the consumption of the small sum I had received from the benevolence of the gentlemen at the *Hot-Wells*, I must inevitably have perished for want, had not the report of such unprecedented cruelties spread itself abroad, and excited the compassion of the benevolent and humane, for whose benign regards, I here must humbly beg leave to return my most grateful acknowledgments; impelled by a sense of the greatest duty, in silent respect, I forbear to mention her, whose elevated rank and dignity strikes with awe, and whose innumerable virtues at-

tract at once the love and respect of all mankind; not under the same embarrassment to the rest of my generous benefactors *Rowland Pitt, Esq;* of the city of *Gloucester*, for his frequent favours, and likewise to *Mrs. Owen*, a lady of fortune in the same city, who not only clothed me, when I was almost naked, and preserved me from the fangs of pinching necessity, but became a generous intercessor with my father, in my behalf, though to little purpose.

The eight months of melancholy wretchedness, I spent in this place, would have been equal in distress, to what I experienced during my confinement in the *Black-Dog prison* in *Dublin*, had not an accident happened, which ingratiated me to *Mr. Hemmings* the keeper; the felons in this prison, by some remissness in the legislature, too frequent in most of
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the county goals in this kingdom, are permitted the same liberty, with the unhappy people confined for debt, and the benefit of the same yard is promiscuously enjoyed by both in the day-time, and not till nine in the evening are they locked up in their distinct ward; at which time a great brindled mastiff, a constant attendant of the turnkey, marches in a stately manner before him, with the massy keys, that command the entrance or those infernal mansions held in his fatal jaws, which his master armed with a great oak sapling; when arrived at the ponderous door, demands the suppliant minister to deliver up; the necessary duty being performed, *Cerberous* immediately retires to his den, and his master to rest.

It happened one evening, the felons under sentence of transportation,

tion, having concerted a scheme to make their escape, were then about to put it in execution, to which purpose several had freed themselves from their fetters, their intent was when *Bedal* the turnkey came at the lock-up hour to secure them, to knock him down with the billets, (made use of for firing) and seize upon the keys, a dispute arising amongst them, just at the critical moment, and encreasing to high words, was luckily overheard by some of the debtors, who on the instant came and acquainted Mr. *Bedal* of the same, he called immediately three or four of us to his assistance, and armed with cutlasses and bludgeons; *Cerberus* alias *Lion* leading the van, we soon quelled the desperate villains, though not till several wounds were distributed amongst them,

them, and the dog seizing one, had very nigh tore out his throat.

My behaviour in this action recommended me to the favour of Mr, *Hemings*, who industriously applied himself to do me all the service in his power, would frequently indulge me with a walk in his bowling-green, gained me the notice of several people of quality, and whenever greatly distressed, would freely advance me small sums of money.

The general election for the city of *Bristol* now approaching, my father, who intended to appear a candidate, apprehending such a scene of continued tyranny to his own son, would by no means be favourable to him, in so critical a juncture; and not caring to have his unnatural proceedings laid open to the world, thought it necessary to change his plan, and instead of starving me in

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a prison, designed now to transport me.

This black design through the merciful interposition of providence, was rendered abortive, by my timely escape at the very juncture, when all things were in readiness to put it into execution.

A bond with a warrant of attorney, to confess a judgment in the penalty of six hundred and twenty pounds payable to my father, with a special covenant to indent myself to go abroad for several years, was transmitted by Mr. Cox, my father's *London* solicitor to *Gloucester*, and forwarded to me in that castle of famine, with a generous offer of my liberty once more, provided I would execute the same, by the favourite fictitious name of *Thomas Plunkett*.

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This was but cold comfort, being still uncertain as to my destined fate, but conscious of my inabilities to cope with so powerful an adversary, and wearied of being thus immured in goals, I determined to get my liberty at any rate, and as soon as possible embrace the first opportunity of making my escape to *France*, where I was in hopes of getting introduced to a near relation of my mother's, *Ignatius Nugenius*, who at that time commanded in the *French* king's service, as a general of horse, to whom I proposed relating my sufferings, and doubted not finding a kind reception, or at least an asylum from the persecuting hand of a barbarous parent.

Accordingly, I acquiesced with the proposal, and was promised to be fitted out with apparel to the amount of 25*l.* though the only articles I received

received, was a coat and a pair of breeches, but as it was judged proper to have an attorney present on my part, in order to render their proceedings the more effectual in law, one Mr. *Driver*, a gentleman of fair character in that profession, was pitched upon, to act for me in this affair, which he at first strenuously opposed, declaring, from his knowledge, it was a transaction of the basest kind.

But the agent on behalf of my father, urging my consent, and putting the best face on this bad cause, at length found means to prevail upon him to do it, though Mr. *Benjamin Hemmings* the goaler could by no means be prevailed upon to witness what he called so iniquitous a proceeding.

By this means, I once more turned my back on a prison, though with

a mind totally confused, from the information I had received, of the plot laid for me, from which I earnestly besought the merciful disposer of all events to deliver me.

My design of going to *Ignatius Nugenius*, I had inadvertently communicated to my brother, who from the malignity of his heart, had carefully sent word of it to my father, and he sensible how greatly all my mother's family resented the dishonour he had brought upon her and them, which had expelled him *Ireland*; could by no means relish that thought, and therefore *Irenius Arrus* of *Bristol*, being then a superior magistrate of the county, was commissioned to prevent my intentions, by conducting the new scheme as follows.

After I had signed the indenture, in which I bound myself for several years to serve one capt. *Mac Kensie*,
who

who was only master of a little *Maryland* trader, and being possessed of no property in *America*, could not have any other view of making me turn out to his profit, than by exposing me to public sale, conscious of this, I made it my study to elude the wicked design.

As soon as I was discharged, three men were employed to escort me to *Bristol*, where the moment I arrived, I was to be put on board, and without farther delay conveyed abroad; these ruffians were, a servant belonging to *Irenius Arrus*, one of Mr. *Wade's*, my father's attorney in *Bristol*; and to compleat the triumvirate, a bailiff's follower, attended by these my honourable guardians, I set out from *Gloucester*.

I took particular care that my behaviour on the road might be such as to give no suspicion, that the villains

lains might not entertain any apprehensions whatever, when arrived near our journey's end, I thought it proper to execute my design, strict orders as I had been informed by some friends in *Gloucester*, had been given to this diabolical crew, to encourage me in drinking as much as possible; aware of this design, I made it my endeavours to turn the scales upon them, which with a little art I affected.

At our entrance into *Bristol*, feigning myself very sick, this served me as an excuse for calling at the *Edinburgh-Castle*, a house I had formerly been acquainted with; as soon as I alighted, I made it my care to compleat their dose; my sickness encreasing, I desired the favour of laying down for an hour or two, which they having no suspicion of my design, readily granted, when retired

retired to my chamber, I called up the landlord, and related to him my unfortunate situation, he was so honest, though employ'd at this time in keeping open house for my father, on account of the ensuing election, as to say, Sir I have no charge over you, so consequently it would be illegal in me to offer to detain you, my doors are open.—I took the hint, and slipping down stairs, left my guard in the lurch, and with the utmost expedition, made the best of my way to Mr. *Charles Gordon*, at the *Golden-Ball* in *Wine-Street*, where I had been directed.

Here I was inform'd, that at a certain attorney's house in *Wine-Street*; where it had been concerted my trusty overseers should conduct me; a party of sea lambs, belonging to one *Green* a purveyor of transports, whose vessel was prepared to give me

due

due reception, that very evening were lying in wait.

Overjoy'd at this eminent escape, I looked upon my present situation as an asylum, to secure me from surrounding dangers, and retired with great satisfaction to repose: *Irenius Arrus*, to reward his servant for his over abundant care and circumspection, discharged him the following day, and the fellow lives now at *Bath*.

How far this magistrate, or any of his friends, can reconcile these proceedings to the character of a good man, I leave the world to judge. But it is certain, by these means he thought the more effectually to gain the affection of my oppressor, for whose interest he was a great stickler: here I would advise this gentleman, if he has any regard for his future welfare, in the most conspicuous part
of

of his house, to have wrote in large *Capitals*, the saying of a truly wise man, viz. *Innocence, though connected with misery, is infinitely preferable to guilt and grandeur.*—

This being perpetually in his eye, might one time or other strike his attention, when the parallel, so obvious betwixt *him* and *me* in that golden sentence, would perhaps be a means to point out his errors, and reclaim a lost sheep to its native fold.

But to proceed, the better to secure myself from any future attempts, and induced with the hopes of raising some friend, who might be able to protect me against their iniquitous schemes, I determined immediately, publishing the hardships of my case; being urged the more to this last resource, upon account of writs having been absolutely issued out, and dis-

patched

patched to all the sea port towns to prevent my getting away.

Here methinks, I see the reader in amazement lift up his hands, was ever implacable anger carried before to such industrious lengths! is this the anger of a father? to his child, no—its seems rather relentless justice persecuting with iron hands, in the severest manner, rapes, murders, felony, and treason; it is not, it cannot be that ever parental ire, should be carried to such extreams against the issue of his own bowels—compelled by famine to commit the few errors he is charged with; but say generous reader, how great the error? how weighty the crime? to look up to the authors of our being for subsistence; how aggravating the guilt, to ask support, from a parent whose innumerable servants sit round tables of plenty, the crumbs of which are denied

denied to his own child? and yet, that this is the sole fault for which I have hitherto suffered, bewitness persecution, and malice in spite of thyself give evidence to.

My mother's family at this time, were so highly incensed at my father's most ungenerous treatment of her, they would by no means permit her to countenance, what they looked upon as a living monument of their disgrace; and indeed, she being now connected to the interest of another family by marriage, it was not to be expected she should, much more concern herself about me; knowing at the same time, how far my father's abilities were capable of advancing me, without either prejudice to himself, or any one else of his family; thus I fell a sacrifice to the carelessness of the one, and the tyranny of the other.

In short, I make no doubt, it will appear to the public, as well as myself, my father's sole intention was, and is nothing less than my destruction; otherwise, as he knew my design to go over to *France*, what reason can be assigned for his taking so much pains to obstruct me; but hitherto by the signal interposition of providence, I have escaped the fatal snare, preserved as yet from the secret perils of salt water, the ravenous hunger of destroying sharks, and worse than these the shackles of endless slavery.

I was obliged *during my stay at *Bristol*, to confine myself to my room, officers of all denominations being employ'd to watch the door day and night, and all the avenues round, were kept secretly, though strictly

strictly guarded, as I found any attempt towards an escape was impracticable, I never endeavoured it; but made myself as easy as my present melancholy circumstances would permit.

As I had no other choice now, I set about writing an abstract of my case, with a fixed resolution to publish it without delay, my father being informed of my intentions, and not choosin^g the world should at this critical time, when every art is made use of, and the complicated force of bribes and flattery, are thought insufficient to gain the unsteady multitude, be acquainted with his unnatural proceedings, and conscious it would give the opposite party the greatest satisfaction to expose his barbarity, and open the eyes of the public, in regard to a
man

man they had fixed upon, as the most proper to execute an office of the highest trust, which likewise at the same time is one of the greatest honours capable of being conferred upon a subject; being conscious I say of the difficulties he must lie under, should this dreaded case be published; he contrived every artifice, that subtilty and invention could put in practice to prevent it; menaces and flattery, were alternately made use of; to-day his emissaries breathed out the language of persecution, and nothing less than *Newgate* was to be my perpetual doom; to-morrow the scene was changed, and mountains were promised, which the successive day saw dwindle into mole-hills.

One day a certain gentleman of the broad-brim fraternity, vulgarly called

called quakers, was ushered into my chamber, and being seated; friend says he, humanity and a desire to bring into the path of life, a stray sheep, induceth me to call upon thee, that if possible I might open the ears of thy understanding, to the end that the light of the spirit, might be admitted to operate upon thee, and thou shouldest become a new man:—admiring so uncommon an introduction, with great civility I desired him to proceed,—rebellion and disobedience to our superiors, will be punished in the regions of darkness; in the regions of darkness will they be chastised, where is weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and though thou deckest thy face in smiles, such as the prophane smileth, yet it behoveth me, to say unto thee, as *Nathan* said

said unto *David*, thou art the man—
after a sigh was continued, friend
thou hast abused the ears of this city,
moved thereunto by the father of
lies, the ears of this city, hast thou
abused; thou hast sounded the
trumpet of sedition, and division is
scattered abroad, be no more as one
of the wicked, take not thee part
with the sons of *Belial*, but let the
spirit hatch the seeds of truth, and
thou shalt flourish, as flourisheth the
godly.—I am afraid Sir, said I,
it is the spirit of gold not the spirit
of godliness, to which I am indebted
for this charitable visit.—Friend,
friend, be not thou as the prophane
one is, who stoppeth his ears to
council, and sitteth in the chair of
folly; for verily it is said, thou hast
rebelled against thy father, who be-
got thee, yea, thou hast set thyself
F up

up against thy own flesh and blood, and evil I say unto thee, evil must proceed therefrom, Here a considerable pause ensuing, Sir said I, if compelled by hunger, my asking for bread may be termed rebellion, than have I rebelled, if endeavouring to fly from an implacable parent, to avoid the efforts of relentless tyranny, by seeking an assylum in a foreign country is disobedience, then I have disobeyed, but without farther prolixity, pray what have I to expect from a visit introduced in so uncommon a manner; to which was answered, I visit thee as *Noah's* dove visited the ark, verily I bring an olive branch as an overture of peace, — here drawing a green purse from his pocket, he seemed to eye it attentively, though his looks denoted at the same time no great propensity to part with it, I will not say friend,

friend, but I have orders, continued he, to offer thee some pieces, wouldst thou hearken to proposals intended solely for thy benefit; four guineas will carry thee to the great city, and thou wilt have sufficient thereof remaining to answer all thy purposes until time shall come, when thou shalt be amply provided for; yea, and I say unto thee, that time is nearer at hand than thou devisest. Sir said I, I am not willing to be an instrument employed to prejudice my father in any scheme he is bent to execute, but what security have I to depend upon, should I accept of your offer, which you may be certain I will not, or for your performance of what you promise, nay what is it you promise, or how shall I be provided for? to which, after sometime spent in rectifying his starch band, *Aminidab* answered, friend thou art as one

of the unthinking ones are, thou shuttest thine ears to reason; O! may the thick darkness thou art involved in, be dispersed, and the light internal shine upon thy understanding, and direct thee to walk in the right way, haddest thou been attentive to what I said, thy Intellects must have told thee, the rod of chastisement is withdrawn, and rebuke shall no more frown upon thee; here is three times more than sufficient to defray thy road expences, a great deal of money friend, verily a great deal, if thou makest proper use of it; telling out at the same-time five guineas very deliberately upon the table,——what remaineth in thy pocket, will keep thee handsomely till thy father cometh up, who will without delay; he promises by me procure thee some profitable employment under the government;

ment; yea verily, and something within whispereth me thou shalt in a little time become a great man.

In short, not to fatigue the reader any more, with a dull recital of what passed betwixt the sanctified surgeon and myself; the following day he agreed to make me a present of six guineas, to discharge whatever I owed to the landlord of the house, to give me security I should not be molested in any shape whatever, provided I would depart the city of *Bristol* the next day, and leave an instrument along with him, testifying my resolution to prosecute the author or authors of any pamphlet, bold enough to prefix my name thereto.

I blush to record my weakness, flattering myself with the hopes that my father would be pleased, at my entering so readily into his proposals.

and fulfill the promise made by his agent, I accepted the terms, and once more fell into the snare prepared for me some time before: the next morning early, I set out for *London* on foot, being determined to spin out my money to the greatest length, where in four days I arrived, nothing remarkable intervening during my journey.

In this manner having regained my liberty, and reflecting upon the danger I had escaped, my father's restless cruelty, and my brother's base behaviour; I found there was still no little reason to suspect the promises lately made, of procuring me a place in some of the public offices, so I resolved to keep myself as secure as possible, from any plot which now might be hatching against me: till I had determined how to proceed, I procured lodgings in the
most

most secret manner, at an *Irish* house in *Princess-Street Leicester-Fields*, the master of which, I had formerly known, and knew I could confide in.

What little money I had to spare, was expended in purchasing some decent apparel, which I now greatly wanted, intending upon my father's arrival in town, to address him in the most dutiful and submissive manner, my design being to remind him of his promise made by the quaker; and by testifying with the utmost humility my filial duty and respect, endeavour, if not to gain his esteem, at least to soften his resentment; if I should fail in that, my resolutions was to retire without loss of time to *France*; being assisted in that design, by a gentleman, whose sincere regard, and tender affection, will always be imprinted within my breast;

F 4 gratitude

gratitude for the kind reception, and generous assistance I met with from his hands, compels me to cast a veil over that dear name, the beloved owner of which, might tyrannically be persecuted upon my account.

I was not only furnished by him with ten guineas, and cloaths proper to appear before the great man, I now intended to seek relief from, but also provided with letters of recommendation, necessary for my introduction; to be brief, I looked upon the eve of my happiness to be as now arrived, a seat in the *Dover* coach, was already took, and I scarcely imagined myself upon *English* ground; but alas! how soon were all my golden hopes blasted.

The morning before my intended departure, I was dodged from a friend's house in *Leicester-Fields* to the *George-Inn* in the *Hay-market*,
by

by a couple of hell-hounds, attended by the clerk of an honest lawyer in *Pater-noster-row*, together with a servant of my humane father's, and was now apprehended by virtue of the last bond for six hundred and twenty pounds, with an execution tacked to the back of it; and being thrust immediately into a hackney coach, away jumbled I and the fiends to the catch-pole's den in the *Strand*.

O reader, if ever thou was't unhappy enough to be involved in misfortunes, no doubt thou must have heard of this insatiable harpy, who had me now in his clutches, but to give thee at once a just idea of him, his name will be sufficient, and that is *Randal*.

The vicissitudes of human life, and the sudden transitions from wealth to poverty, from plenty to
F 5 penury,

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penury, make it not unseasonable in this place to entertain the public with a brief description of that infernal mansion, called a spunging house.

Whoever thou art that runs over these pages, may peace, plenty and happiness still wait upon thy steps, may'st thou enjoy a perpetual elysium in the arms of a faithful consort, and thy blooming off-spring live upon thy smiles, O may never a reverse of fortune snatch thee from every domestick joy, to this den of woe, whose fatal threshold pass'd, O! for a draught of *Lethe* to sink past scenes in oblivion, and deprive thee of all sensation; here, here, is the touchstone of friendship; ye time serving crew, who feasted at my table, whose wine it was that nightly deprived you of your cares, when the festal bowl went gayly round, how lavish were ye, your fortunes and

F 5,

your-

yourself were freely offered, why suddenly so parsimonious; thou possessed of twice ten thousand, who hast experienced my liberal purse, more than once in time of utmost need; my substance is abroad, till that returns, be my bail for this three hundred? grant me patience! am I refused, monstrous villain! — be not amazed, try others, — — — deceived again! — — — the circle which but just now appeared crowded with friends, by applying the magnet of adversity is suddenly vanished.

The coach in which the unhappy wretch is carried to this house of slaughter, being ordered to draw up, he is pushed headlong out into a room, the doors and windows of which are trebly guarded with iron bars, here in all probability he is received by three or four brother's of misfortune, and after having for a
while

while stupidly gazed at each other, he is perhaps invited to sit down, silence and sorrow swell up the short interval betwixt this and dinner, which though none of the most delicate, is introduced by the great bashaw himself, who big with his own superior worth, in great dignity seats himself at the head; the wife as next in authority, places herself at his right hand, and a couple of hawk-eye'd setters take their degrees at his left.

And now if the unhappy sufferer hath any appetite, let him sit down and partake of the unsanctified meal, if not, expect the she tyrant to growl; marry come up, some folks are hard to please, though may be such a table of their own, never called them master; and though I say it, as should not say it, the best lord in the land does not provide better, for
I

I carries the ready to market, and no one can say as I owe them a single farthing, no no, I'm not the body that runs in debt, and gives honest folk, the trouble to come at their own; — but my dear answers old dignity from his elbow chair, what signifies being so hard on the gentleman, when his gall is broke he will be more chearful; come *Mary* fill him up a glass of wine, which if refused, as most likely it may, is immediately swallowed up, by some of this unfeeling crew, who seldom leave the table till four or five bottles are added to the reckoning, which when night arrives must be discharged; at which time all credit expires; and if the bill comes within the limits of eight nine, or ten shillings, think it compleatly moderate.

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The goaler now waits to see each to his separate apartment, where scarcely time is permitted to undress, before the light is rudely took away, and the harmonious clangor of massy bolts and bars conclude the scene.

Left thus to meditate on the dismal change; grief and anxiety, banish sleep, which otherwise might seal the drowsy eyelids in spite of *Bugs*, and a flock bed: the painful hours at length brings on the opening day, that with much difficulty penetrates through the numberless bars, which endeavour to obstruct its grateful entrance; starting from the couch of misery, tattered curtains, dusty hangings, half a table, and a broken chair, greet the eye; the damp walls here, and there adorned with an old ballad, the babes in the wood, or perhaps a quaker's sermon;

sermon; the ten foot room with unwearied step, is now from side to side alternately measured; day advances and the attentive ears, listen to every noise, whilst the eye reckons up the iron studs, which chequer in geometrical squares the impenetrable door.

An hour short of noon, liberty is permitted to descend, when the morose tyrant, the muscles of his face contracted in the sternest manner, thus at the stair foot salutes you; well Sir, the twenty four hours allowed by act of parliament is expired, I am told there is no prospect of making your affair up, the debt is large, and for my own security, I must call a coach and conduct you to *Newgate*.—Be not astonished at the terrifying sound, but cross the monster's venal palm with half a piece, instantly his features relax, and the
tone

tone of his voice is soften'd : why Sir says he, I am a gentleman as scorns to use a man ill ; so be as you think to make matters up, stay here in god's name, and let me tell you, many a great man whose name's shall be hush, has spent a merry hour in my house ; for though I say it a bottle of better wine is not to be found in *London*.

With this *item* he leaves you assiduously to follow his daily destructive occupation, and now if neither bail or money can't be procured, nor the relentless creditors give an ear to composition, take without delay the benefit of the *habeas corpus* act, which at the expence of about four pounds, will remove you from this den of perdition, to whatever commodious prison you think proper to choose, the fleet, and the king's bench,

bench, being in such cases the sad alternative.

Give no ear to the catch-pole, or any of his emissaries, who as long as you spend profusely will use all their art to detain you, will daily flatter you with hopes of compromising your affairs, and invent a thousand lies to deceive you; but when your money is gone, the cloven foot discovers itself, most base and injurious language is made use of, and the very first bill of extortion you are incapable to pay, sends you indeed to *Newgate*.

This was my unhappy case, the artful villain soon found I had money, which he was resolved should in a little time revert to him; in consequence of which, I was kept in perpetual suspense, hopes were given me to day, which alas! the following day proved false; three or four shillings

shillings were added every night to my bill, for porters that were never employ'd, and as much for liquor I never drank,; in the space of ten or twelve days my pocket began to ebb, and I found myself reduced to a single guinea, with which when the subtle demon was acquainted, ay says he to-morrow I will carry you to Mr. Cox, your father's attorney in *Pater-noster-row*, and make no doubt but we shall compleat your business.

The next morning a coach was called, which big with the sanguine thoughts of liberty, I immediately entered, when the coach stopped, this inhumane monster, who had by various artifices received near ten guineas from me; stepped out, and giving me his hand; now Sir, says he, let me congratulate you upon your arrival to this famous and celebrated castle, where you will receive more
strict

strict attendance than my poor hut was capable of giving you.—

Newgate with all its horrors presented itself to my eyes. and I was now for a third time plunged into the inhospitable mansions of a goal, and surrounded with anguish and despair.

Thus on a sudden was the cup of hope dashed from my lips, and in a moment I found myself sunk in the most abject distress, without a friend to apply to, and destitute of every thing but bread and water, but in spite of misery I lived, I yet live to make public these worse than inquisitory proceedings, and declare to the world these tales of horror, which otherwise must have descended unknown, untold, to their native hell.

Time and reason, recovered me gradually from my confusion. I resolved

solved to apply to this inhuman parent, for a mitigation of my woes, and not being conscious of any act deserving the unparallel'd cruelties inflicted upon me, I even entertained thoughts of succeeding, and did not yet decline all hopes, that pity and affection would assume the places within his breast, from which they had been so long expelled, I therefore addressed my father in several letters, of which the following is an abstract from one.

Admit Sir I have offended you, and that my conduct has been highly blameable, which from a sincere compunction of heart, with the deepest contrition, I here acknowledge, still Sir, as such errors were the mere effect of my youth, and great distress, they cannot surely deserve such rigorous treatment, if my offence Sir has the aggravation of being against my own father,
let

let the filial remorse I now feel on that account, find a father's forgiveness, that I am your son Sir, you ever acknowledged, and by no less lady than your own cousin Cleora Nugenia, which I must own you did me the honour to avow, before the late Mr. justice Fielding.——Permit me then Sir, once more to lay my miseries at your feet, imploring your pardon and compassion; shut not your ears against the cries of your own offspring; let my youth plead in my behalf for pity, let less than my absolute destruction atone for my past error's; consider, consider, most honourable Sir, the miseries of your own son perishing in Newgate.

Think upon the length of my confinement, consider the season of the year, and deny not mercy to him, who will cheerfully accept liberty, and obey your commands, to go to any part of the world you shall desire, and make
it

it his chief ambition, by every future action to regain your favour, there are forces daily going abroad, and officers are wanting, let me intreat you Sir, enable me to testify the duty I owe you by getting me a commission; — I am sorry Sir, if my insupportable distresses ever obliged me to reflect the least dishonour upon your name, but necessity will overcome inclination, for hunger is a troublesome creditor, and will not be denied; but for every act displeasing to you Sir, I here on the knees of my very soul, crave your pardon, and do assure you there is no advantage, I can hope from the publication of my case, will be so agreeable to me as a restoration to your favour; therefore I beg for godsake, you will once more let humanity reassume it's wonted seat in your breast, and deign to look upon me not only as a son, but as a son who has a just sense of his mis-

misconduct, and your goodness, that he will devote every hour of his future life, to merit the continuance of your favour, a finer opportunity than the present can never offer,—— I have youth on my side Sir, and wish for nothing more, than occasion to demonstrate I have courage too, &c. &c.

About the same time I was thus applying to my father for mercy, some anonymous friend, addressed the public in my behalf in the *London Evening*, about the 2d of July 1755, in the following letter signed *Veritas*, for which I return my hearty thanks.

To the Printer.

‘ **E**VERY address I read in your
‘ paper in behalf of the distress-
‘ ed, gives me no small pleasure;
‘ in hopes by the same channel they
‘ may

' may reach the knowledge of those
 ' who have a heart to commiserate,
 ' and a purse to relieve: the rich Sir
 ' we daily experience to have many
 ' friends, the wretched few, and
 ' tho' we are all fellow creatures of
 ' the same creator, and are told a
 ' cup of cold water given the afflict-
 ' ed, shall not be forgotten, yet how
 ' frequently do we read of miserable
 ' objects expiring in the open streets
 ' for want, without any notice, ex-
 ' cept that of a beadle, who in-
 ' dustriously drives them into a
 ' neighbouring parish to save his
 ' own the expence of burying, and if
 ' by chance the crowd gathered on
 ' such sad occasions induces a man
 ' of affluence to stop his chariot
 ' and enquire into the cause; with
 ' what precipitancy does he again
 ' resume his lolling posture, go on
 ' and forget it.

But

‘ But it is not my intention now,
‘ to treat upon the various distresses
‘ of mankind; much has been said
‘ upon the subject by abler hand’s; I
‘ only take up my pen with an intent
‘ to relate a fact, the very recollec-
‘ tion of which makes me shud-
‘ der.

‘ I had occasion the other day to
‘ visit an unfortunate friend in *New-*
‘ *gate*, who was there confined for
‘ debt, amongst the number of un-
‘ happy persons, I then saw one par-
‘ ticularly demanded my attention,
‘ he appeared to me a youth about
‘ twenty two, or twenty three years
‘ of age, the dejection of his coun-
‘ tenance, and the strong emblems
‘ of distress, that in various shapes
‘ were too manifest to escape my
‘ notice, would not suffer me to
‘ refrain asking some particulars of
‘ his case.

G

‘ Good

‘ Good God, how I was confounded, to hear his own father now enjoys an estate of many thousands a year, that his mother was his father’s own cousin, and daughter of a gentleman in *Ireland* of two thousand five hundred pounds *per annum*; that he was confin’d at his father’s suit, for a debt of many hundred pounds, and that this is no less than the third time in the two kingdoms, his father has thus immured him, that he is not allowed one penny by him, but on the contrary, his case was no better than the greatest want; shocked to the highest degree, I had scarce power to believe it, till my friend gave me incontestable proofs of the veracity of this sad relation.

‘ I went on still further, enquired if he had ever applied for his discharge,

‘ charge, and was told yes, many
‘ time to no purpose, his father, if
‘ so he can be called, giving for an-
‘ swer he would not discharge him
‘ on any terms whatever, tho’ at the
‘ same time he is not insensible of
‘ all he suffers, and that his only
‘ allowance is bread and water.

‘ His father no doubt assigns some
‘ reason for confining him, but how
‘ can he any for starving him. He
‘ wrote him a letter the other day,
‘ which I had the perusal of, and
‘ in that, he in the most penitential,
‘ and pathetick manner, implored
‘ his pardon for all offences, and
‘ humbly beseeched a restoration to
‘ his favour, offered to spend his
‘ days in any clime, and in any
‘ manner he should think proper,
‘ would he but make a reasonable
‘ provision for him.

G 2

‘ But

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' But deaf to every entreaty, and
 ' unaffected by his calamities, still
 ' he persists in his cruel persecutions :
 ' has this unwearied youth offend-
 ' ed him? yes, he owns he has,
 ' yet such offences were the mere
 ' effects of his youth, and great dis-
 ' tress; and why will not that at-
 ' tonement, that sincere repentance,
 ' and return to a dutyful disposition
 ' towards his father, procure him
 ' that mercy from his earthly parent;
 ' which he is not denied in the like
 ' case by his heavenly one. 'Tis the
 ' necessity, not the merit of the
 ' afflicted we ought to regard, and
 ' if he is blameable let us give to
 ' humanity; it is a deplorable case,
 ' to be immured and perishing, who
 ' can conceive the miseries of those
 ' who want, hunger is said to know
 ' no friend, no relation, no justice;
 ' no right, &c. &c. &c.

' Then

‘ Then let the tender and hu-
‘ mane, reflect on the sad condition
‘ of the perishing captive ; let the
‘ hard hearted father think of his
‘ son, and think on an hereafter ;
‘ If benevolence is the most social
‘ of virtues, (as surely it is) here is
‘ an opportunity, not a common
‘ one to gratify that amiable dispo-
‘ sition ; in hopes therefore, that
‘ there are yet some, whose bowels
‘ of compassion may yearn for this
‘ real object of their charity, and
‘ that being denied the father, the
‘ friend, and even the humane in
‘ his own parent, he may find him
‘ in the public : and that a life thus
‘ endangered by the most unheard-
‘ of cruelty may be snatched from
‘ eminent destruction, the sole at-
‘ tempt of this unnatural father,
‘ I am, Sir &c.

G 3

VERITAS.

This

This compassionate and generous address, had the following effect, my father's officious agent, to whom I stand indebted for variety of good offices, for it is to him I am obliged, for contriving the instruments I was discharged by, from *Gloucester Castle*, in order to transport me; it was he, went to a worthy gentleman in *Bloomſbury*, whereby his faſely affirming I was not the ſon of *Tiberius*, I was deprived of that aſſiſtance I promiſed myſelf from the contents of his firſt letter; he is one of thoſe induſtrious wretches, who like to incendiaries that fire a houſe in order to plunder it in the confuſion; hath cunningly aggravated the unhappy difference betwixt father and ſon to keep himſelf employed.

This artful man to ingratiate himſelf the more in my father's favour, immediately flew to the printer, with whom

whom he industriously employed the menances of the law, to deter him from publishing any more addresses in my behalf, and the next morning not being willing himself to appear in so melancholy a place, or on so discommendable an errand, he employed one *Tooth—re*, an *Old Baily* solicitor, pretty well known for understanding perfectly the backside of the law, to make me a visit; who attacked me with his usual frontispiece in this civil manner, Sir, did you put that letter in the *London Evening Post* last Saturday signed *Veritas*? but the messenger being as scandalous as his errand was infamous, I left him to find out an answer to his impertinent question; and can only admire the judgment of my father's agent, who chose a deputy so suitable to such a business.

But this application was not all at that time made against me, for I had just before then applied to *Plautius Varus*, not more famous for his genteel behaviour, his well known humanity, and literary productions, than for his readiness to lend his pen to relieve the distressed ; I laid before him the particulars of my case, and intreated his compassionate assistance, it was but a very short time after, that I was favoured with a letter from him, informing me, that he hoped I would excuse his taking time to enquire into the circumstances of my story, which he found to be for the most part true ; but should not scruple to add, I had been guilty of some indiscretions, however he would serve me all that he could, and believed it would be in his power to assist me, but begged I would take no public step till such time

time as he saw me, which would certainly be in a day or two, &c. this letter was directed to *Clare Nugenius* in *Newgate*,

The mistake in my christian name was a proof with me he had made some enquiry into my affairs, as it was my mother's christian name, and which I had in no shape mentioned or thought of in my letter to him.

Sometime elapsed before I heard again from this gentleman, and adhering strictly to his request of taking no public step till I saw him, made me not a little uneasy; labouring in the mean time under the disagreeable circumstances of real poverty, and all its hungry attendants, I still remained unwilling to address any one for relief, before I knew his answer, which both by his letter and servant I had been promised.

At length I received a letter from him acquainting me that he had endeavoured to serve me to the utmost of his power, but that *Tiberius Nugenius* had assured him under his hand I was not his son, and to ascertain which, several persons had been sent to give him such accounts, particularly amongst others, that truly great and honest lawyer, Mr. C—x, and then goes on saying Sir, what can I do in such a case as this where the truth is doubtful it must become me to be silent, for here I have only your word on the one side of this cause and that of others to contradict it.

‘ I am very sorry Sir my situation will not permit me to be generous, if I did you should not be without the effect of it; for whatever is the case I am very sensible no one deserves more to be pitied, and I am
with

with real concern, Sir your most humble servant, *Plautius Varus* directed to *Caius Silius Nugenius*; on the master debtor's side in *Newgate*.

I sincerely hope neither this good gentleman nor any one else will blame me for this recital; as it at once displays the utmost generosity and humanity in him, and the never to be conquered virulence of my father and his faithful agent. But though these extraordinary proceedings might at that time put some stop to the charitable intentions of several humane people who otherwise might have assisted me, they were incapable to produce any conviction? On the contrary the indefatigable industry of my enemies and the unusual methods made use of to prejudice the world against me; naturally lead every one to conclude my enemies themselves are too well convinced.

vinced of the injustice of their transactions, and that such was the opinion of the abovementioned gentleman, is obvious from the tenor of his letter; in the first place, he ingenuously confesses that he finds upon enquiry the circumstances of my story to be for the most part true, and how far he traced it, is very evident by superscribing in his direction my mother's christian name, (a circumstance as I said before he knew not from me) in short thro' the whole, tho' a restraint seems to be laid on his pen, still justice and compassion appear to retain their seats in his mind; he informs me of the applications to him, is sorry he cannot alleviate my distress; and still confesses no one is more deserving of pity; and all this after the wicked efforts of my father, his busy agent, and their occasional witness.

But

But these are not all the instances of this gentleman's caution, not to countenance too far their dark proceedings; for in his second letter having in his hurry, after the word persons (meaning those sent to him) added the words of credit, he was particularly careful to strike them out, doubtless not thinking they were so.

I shall now most gratefully return my thanks to this gentleman for his candour and compassion, and beg his pardon for these few remarks which I am perswaded cannot offend him.

In regard to my father's ingenious solicitor: I must beg leave to observe, as honesty is the greatest ornament to a professor of the law, so without humanity, that honour to our nature; man himself is degraded even beneath the brute creation he is but a young man as well as myself

self, and tho' he may be too much above the world at present, to stand in need of others compassion, I hope he is not too elevated to afford it to them that do; as he must know how sensible my father is of my being his son, why does he countenance my persecutions; his first clerk one Mr. *Reiley*, who it is imagined shou'd be no stranger to his masters sentiments in that respect, when he came to see me in *Newgate*, admitted my sufferings were so unparalled that were he not so well acquainted with them wou'd scarcely gain his belief.

It might be well for this gentleman wou'd he consider in time what must be the effect of these cruel, these unprecedented proceedings, the imbittering a father against his own offspring is a crime of so malignant a nature as loudly to call for retribution.

retribution, and justice tho' she may seem to advance with tardy steps will in due season overtake the authors of evil.

As for myself from my heart, I sincerely forgive him every injury I have received, and hope he will meet with that mercy in another world, which he has cruelly denied me in this: I am too well convinced of the contrary, to flatter myself with the smallest hopes of receiving any benefit, any redress, from addressing him as I now do in so public a manner, but as it may be a means to prevent him from future practices of the same bad stamp, I am content and think I have fully discharged my duty to the world and to him.

I shall now leave my father and the abovementioned gentleman fully employed in blocking up every
avenue

avenue by which they imagined I could receive the least relief.

Whilst this business was carrying on in *London*, my miserable condition had reached the ears of the charitable and humane in *Bristol*; among whom, in *September* 1754, I had procured some printed bills to be dispersed, imploring their commiseration; but alas! the oppression of a poor imprisoned perishing youth was now become a matter of such importance, that a malignant party, ready to sacrifice the peace and happiness of a fellow-creature to their own sinister ends, and ambition, started up against me, with a certain temporizing levite at their head, who with all the implacability of a personal resentment, left no stratagem of malicious defamation unemployed to prejudice my character: hunted me as a common enemy, and the
misfortunes

misfortunes of my mother, together with the inadvertencies of my youth, were not only infinitely aggravated and exposed to the wide world, and every trivial error I could be charged with, magnified ten thousand fold ; but every base insinuation that he was able to suggest, was carefully added to perfect their inhumanity.

In particular, my good friend the *Rabbi* most eminently distinguished himself in this laudable procedure, for he immediately sent an account to his worthy friend and patron in *London* of the distribution of the aforesaid hand-bills, and the great danger there was of the effect it might have upon the minds of the good christians in that city ; but e'er the vigilant doctor could receive an answer to his letter, a spirit of charity seemed universally to discover itself

self, pity and compassion pleaded in my behalf, and my father's cruelty met with so general a detestation, that a subscription was resolved upon in my favour.

Just as this humane and charitable design was going to be put in execution, and the gentlemen of the city were assembled together at the coffee-house for that purpose, this busy priest entering the room, desired the attention of the company to what he had to relate. Then drew from his pocket a letter he had just received from his patron, stuffed with the grossest falsties that malice and infernal artifice could invent; being wrote more in the spirit of a *Turkish* bashaw to his servile dependants, than of a *British* senator to his constituents; and more adapted to a country of slaves than a free people; the
contents

contents of which was to assure the public :

Firstly, That *Tiberius* was so far from being my father, that he could if necessary, with the greatest ease convince the world I was the son of a favorite servant of his, and no ways related to him.

Secondly, That this servant had unfortunately applied to him for his interest to get his child apprenticed out, that upon his enquiry into what business I most liked, I pitched upon that of an apothecary; and that by his means and interest I was bound to an apothecary accordingly.

Thirdly, That I had gone frequently by the names of *Fribourgh* and *Plunkett*, and never till such time as I came to *Newgate* in *London*, had I assumed the name of *Nugenius*.

Fourthly, That I had made application to a great many Roman Catholicks

Catholicks, his irreconcilable enemies, and by a story well told, compacted of artifice and lies, had deceived many,

And lastly, That upon the request of one captain *Hamilton*, I was introduced into his majesty's service; but that I was such a mean, low-lif'd fellow, as to behave ill in every station; that thro' some defect in the law I could not be committed by the vagrant act, to make up which failer, it had been contrived to commit me upon a bond and judgment, as the justice proposed.

Then this reverend gentleman, commenting on the above heads, not a single article of which was true, harrangu'd the company for some time on the heinous intention of subscribing a trifle for the relief of a poor starving prisoner.

But he would do well to consider
how

how much such unchristian and inhuman actions indicates the rancour of a *Jew*, or even the malice of a *Belzebub* (a title he seems to be greatly enamoured with, by adopting it in his anonymous writings) for to do no good himself, and at the same time to dissuade others from doing it, is diabolical indeed.

However these charges so positively brought against me (for that time) suspended the intended subscription which gave no small satisfaction to the industrious doctor, but as these proceedings were not done in a corner and transactions of such a kind being apt to excite the attention of the curious, they were quickly known in *London*, and happening to be the subject of discourse in a publick company, a gentleman then present determin'd seeing me upon it, which he accordingly did, and
looking

looking upon these accumulated injuries done to a defenceless young man as truly deserving the assistance of ever enemy to oppression; he afterwards at my request generously took upon himself the trouble to answer the reverend doctor in the following letter.

S I R,

‘ The high regard I entertain
 ‘ for your sacred order lays me under
 ‘ no small difficulty, when I purpose
 ‘ addressing my self to you upon what
 ‘ really appears to me in so disagreeable a light; and had I not the
 ‘ strongest proofs, I should be inclined to disbelieve it.

‘ It is a charge against you Sir, no
 ‘ less then doing the greatest injury to
 ‘ one who never offended you, and
 ‘ at the Expence of truth, justice and
 ‘ humanity; therefore the duty I owe
 to

‘ to God, and mankind in general,
‘ a love for justice, and a hatred to
‘ tyranny, oblige me to point out to
‘ you, the wrong you have done, and
‘ in how great a degree you have been
‘ an instrument to oppress the op-
‘ pressed.

‘ From your function Sir, you will
‘ think me not unreasonable, if I say,
‘ I have the greatest right to expect,
‘ not only truth and justice, but com-
‘ passion, mercy and christian charity:
‘ we are not to think the frowns of a
‘ man in power, sufficient to terrify,
‘ or his smiles to allure us, to be cruel
‘ or unjust ; but if I have a right con-
‘ ception of things, (if not pardon me)
‘ we are commanded to do, as we
‘ would be done by, which I take to
‘ be a precept that ought to be en-
‘ graven on every man’s breast.

‘ I shall now proceed to the charge,
‘ I was one with several others, at a
‘ much

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‘ much frequented *Coffee-house* near
 ‘ the *Royal-Exchange*, when among
 ‘ other discourses relative to the city,
 ‘ and its members, the case of a
 ‘ young gentleman, said to be the
 ‘ son of one of them, and at this pre-
 ‘ sent time confined, and perishing in
 ‘ *Newgate* by his father’s procure-
 ‘ ment, was brought upon the car-
 ‘ pet, his distresses were pitied, and
 ‘ his unnatural treatment universal-
 ‘ ly condemned.

‘ But as I had been pretty much
 ‘ from town myself, and not perfect-
 ‘ ly acquainted with the case, which
 ‘ they seemed to represent as shocking
 ‘ to humanity, I craved the relation,
 ‘ and was indulged, and am constrain-
 ‘ ed to say of all the proceedings I
 ‘ have ever remembred to have read
 ‘ of, in this nation, and too many sad
 ‘ instances have been, I cannot recol-
 ‘ lect any that exceeds this young
 ‘ gentleman’s

gentleman's; his being such a long train of unnatural cruelties: but to find a man of *Numitius's* character, a divine of the church of *England*, officiously acting a principal part in this tragical scene, seemed to me extreamly odd, and to depreciate not a little from his merit.

That this unhappy young gentleman, is now in the greatest want on the common side of *Newgate* I took the trouble to satisfy myself by ocular demonstration: I saw him, conversed with him; and must own he deserves not only mine, but every man's real pity; for give me leave to add, I used every art I was master of, to distinguish truth from falshood, in the circumstances of his relation, and have no room to doubt its authenticity.

H

Now

‘ Now, Sir, in respect to yourself
 ‘ on what passed at the *Coffee-*
 ‘ *House*; it was asserted, and strongly
 ‘ insisted upon, that you had under-
 ‘ took publicly to maintain, for
 ‘ reasons best known to yourself,
 ‘ tho’ to others not unfathom-
 ‘ able, that this young gen-
 ‘ tleman was not any relation to
 ‘ *Tiberius Nugenius*; that he was
 ‘ bound an apprentice to an apothecary,
 ‘ run away and lost his mas-
 ‘ ter’s favour; that he was in the
 ‘ army, but by the depravity of his
 ‘ nature, forfeited or made away
 ‘ with his commission. That he
 ‘ applied to roman catholics, and
 ‘ by an artful story well told had
 ‘ deceived a great many of that
 ‘ persuasion. That he was carried
 ‘ as a vagrant before justice *Fielding*.
 ‘ but not committed throw some
 ‘ defect in the law.

‘ Several

Several other particulars were by these gentlemen laid to your account, which at present I will omit, and only speak to those I have enquired into, which is what I greatly fear you have not, though a step quite essential to form a right judgment of things; pray, Sir, as to the first, if he is not as is alledged the son of *Tiberius*, why did he educate him at Mr. *Fagan's* academy in *Dublin*, part of which time his other son was cotemporary with him; if he was no relation how came he to put him an apprentice to an apothecary, or get him a commission in the army, which through the depravity of his nature you say he forfeited; these are natural questions, if we desire to arrive at truth; as also, who that apothecary was, and in what part

‘ of the world he lived, and likewise
‘ in whose regiment he bore the
‘ commission you mention, for you
‘ say he was in the army by the
‘ interest of one Capt. *Hamilton*,
‘ a person he never saw, and
‘ hath as little an idea of as he
‘ has of your imaginary apothecary ; but should we admit these
‘ circumstances to be true, we might
‘ join you indeed, in thinking his
‘ nature very depraved, that he
‘ should have two such generous
‘ friends no wise related to him
‘ but both entire strangers, who
‘ should have his interest so
‘ highly at heart, thus elemosynarily to serve him, and he not know
‘ how to value their favours ? but
‘ suppose doctor these assertions
‘ should not be literally true, or
‘ suppose they are in no single
‘ circumstance so, but the most
abominable

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“ abominable falshoods ever ut-
“ tered, what will you say then,
“ ignorance can be no excuse;
“ common fame can be no authority,
“ the father’s assertion no argu-
“ ment, because he is a party, and
“ no sensible man can deviate in
“ judging, from the golden maxim,
“ *audi alteram partem*? Then doc^r or
“ let me tell you these are all absolute
“ falshoods from the beginning
“ to the end, and when it is con-
“ sidered against whom they are cal-
“ culated, words are deficient to ex-
“ press the heinousness of the crime,
“ either in the composer or vender:
“ and sorry am I to hear it should
“ be laid to the charge of a divine of
“ the church of *England*: it is poor
“ christianity indeed to blame nature
“ for a fault that never existed, the
“ more effectually to prevent relief
“ being afforded a perishing prisoner,

' is this agreeable to the doctrine
 ' your great master whose minister
 ' you are? Whose precepts you
 ' ought not only to inculcate but
 ' observe whose examples you ought
 ' to follow and promote; you
 ' cannot say it is: he was the
 ' prisoner's friend for he visited
 ' them, he promises not to for-
 ' get the smallest offices done the
 ' necessitous, he has not com-
 ' manded us to join the father's
 ' inhumanity in persecuting the
 ' son, his delight is mercy, and
 " he that says he loves God, and
 " loves not his brother is a liar;
 ' ministers of God, Sir, should not
 ' be engines of persecutions!
 ' mercenary tools! and seekers of
 ' earthly preferment at the ex-
 ' pence of christianity.

' But to proceed, Sir, to the
 ' next assertion, that he applied to
 Roman

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• roman catholics, told an artful
• story and deceived many.

• ' You do not tell us what he
• applied for, indeed you need not,
• for admitting it to be fact, it
• will be concluded it was for sup-
• port: a great crime it must be
• allowed truly, and so because a
• miserable young gentleman loaded
• with all the calamities which an
• unnatural parent from an op-
• pressive disposition can invent,
• will not out of complaisance to
• such cruel tyranny, submit to starve,
• but is willing to ask, and accept
• of relief, from the charitable,
• and humane who happen in
• this case to be roman catholic
• Christians; for you will not I
• dare say aver there are no
• such; must a minister of the
• church of *England*, to testify
• his religious (more properly
H 4 irreligious

‘ irreligious) zeal, use every art
 ‘ the depravity of his nature can
 ‘ suggest, to demonstrate his want
 ‘ of christian love, and a due
 ‘ sense of his holy office? Must
 ‘ he banish truth and compassion,
 ‘ unsheath the sword of vengeance,
 ‘ fall out to the *Coffee-House*, stop
 ‘ the charitable subscriptions de-
 ‘ sign’d, and actually carrying on
 ‘ to alleviate the distresses of a
 ‘ perishing captive, and thus *anti-*
 ‘ *christian hero-like*, establish a pre-
 ‘ tence to the father’s interest by the
 ‘ sacrifice of the son; and tell the
 ‘ Lord, vengeance is mine, and I
 ‘ will repay it.

‘ But doctor, grant me your pa-
 ‘ tience a little longer, I only mean
 ‘ to open your eyes in a friendly
 ‘ manner, and therefore trust you
 ‘ will patiently hear me, and re-
 ‘ ceive my endeavours for your good,
 ‘ with

‘ with all-the warmth of a sincere
‘ thankfulness ; you say he was car-
‘ ried before justice *Fielding*, and
‘ through a deficiency in the law
‘ could not be committed ; this arti-
‘ fice is the only one amongst ma-
‘ ny that has the least truth in it,
‘ though but in a part neither ; yet
‘ again unfortunately for you, I fear
‘ it will not do you much honour,
‘ that he was carried before justice-
‘ *Fielding* is allowed, but a deficiency
‘ in the law was not the cause of
‘ his non-commitment, and here I
‘ cannot help thinking you know
‘ that as well as I, for an other
‘ reason is honestly assigned, which
‘ if you are ignorant of I will tell
‘ you, justice *Fielding* was ashamed
‘ of the proceeding, and he and all
‘ present interceded with the fa-
‘ ther, in his behalf, instead of
‘ committing him, to give him a

‘ sum of money, &c. and he then
 ‘ gave him ten pounds. (For a full
 ‘ account of these transactions, see
 ‘ page 64, 65.) What think you
 ‘ now doctor of your deficiency in
 ‘ the law? but we are now be-
 ‘ fore the justice, and as providence
 ‘ would have it, what justice do you
 ‘ think was done him; he was
 ‘ own’d by his father, not to be a
 ‘ relation only, but to be his son;
 ‘ the same a late great prince was
 ‘ well convinced of, when he order-
 ‘ ed *Tiberius* to act a father’s part by
 ‘ him; and then out of his royal cle-
 ‘ mency gave him a purse, how
 ‘ comes he then doctor to be alienat-
 ‘ ed by you; you cannot be insensi-
 ‘ ble of what I assert, for the case is
 ‘ notorious, his mother and her re-
 ‘ lations, as well as the father own
 ‘ it, though not to the father’s
 ‘ honour; she being his first cousin
 ‘ and

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• and the daughter of a gentleman
• of 2500 pounds *per annum*. Cer-
• tainly, Sir, you must now see how
• far you have erred; or to speak
• more favourably, how grossly you
• have suffered yourself to be im-
• posed upon.

• You cannot now I hope be un-
• sensible of the crime, you have
• committed, in too eagerly espous-
• ing as truth, the most absurd fal-
• sities; let me appeal to your own
• breast, can the youthful inadverten-
• cies of this miserable young gentle-
• man, with the least shadow of justice
• incur such unheard of cruelty from
• his father's hands; is nothing
• to satisfy his feigned resentment
• but the absolute destruction of his
• own son? How diabolical must
• such a disposition be, heaven itself,
• Sir, you know expects only our
• repentance for our crimes, and
• shall

‘ shall an earthly parent covet more;
‘ surely if you have been as artfully,
‘ inveigled as I suppose you may,
‘ to act an unchristian part you will
‘ not delay making the best retaliation
‘ in your power.

‘ Mankind has a right to expect
‘ from your station, nothing inconsistent
‘ with mercy, truth and
‘ justice, how commendable, nay,
‘ how agreeable to the tenets of that
‘ doctrine you preach, would it be
‘ for you, Sir, to employ your good
‘ offices to heal a breach attended
‘ with such abhorred circumstances.

‘ To join against the oppressed, is
‘ the highest inhumanity; and he
‘ that cannot feel for another’s mis-
‘ fortunes, is no better than a living
‘ stone; whilst on the other hand,
‘ to do acts of tenderness and mercy,
‘ and to become the peace-maker,
‘ calls down an immediate blessing
‘ upon

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* upon the practicers of those social
‘ virtues : let us consider we are all
‘ of the same Creator, made of the
‘ same mould, must crumble into
‘ the same dust ; and that to be a
‘ *Dives* here, only forfeits heaven
‘ hereafter.

‘ Permit me then, Sir, to conjure
‘ you, by the duty you owe to God
‘ and man, let your utmost endeav-
‘ ours hence forward be doubled in
‘ behalf of this undeservedly deplor-
‘ able persecuted youth ; and may
‘ God give a blessing to the under-
‘ taking. I am, &c. VERITAS.

‘ *P. S.* I am sensible he is ready to
‘ accept his liberty on any terms his
‘ father pleases ; and will, I dare say,
‘ be diligent and industrious in what-
‘ ever station of life he is pleased to
‘ place him.

This letter, one would have ima-
gined would have a good effect up-
on

on any one not dead to all sense of shame, but I never found it had any on the good doctor; for when I afterwards seconded it with the greatest sense of duty to my father, concern at his displeasure, and respect for himself, he very civilly returned it me under cover, to put me to double charge, amidst the poverty of *Newgate*. However, this letter in my behalf, again revived the good intentions of the public to relieve my distress; and was thought a sufficient vindication by all, except those concerned in the charge.

During these proceedings in *Bristol*, my adversaries were not less vigilant in *London*: I still persisted in writing several respectful letters to my father, in order, if possible, to move his compassion; but as to the delivery I will not be certain; and these I enclosed to a gentleman

man of the law, whose residence is in *Pater-noster row*, and with whom the reader as well as myself is already too well acquainted : him I endeavoured also, with all the rhetoric of pleading distress, to prevail upon to be humanely disposed towards me.

This, if I may be permitted the expression, was milking the tyger ; the most I could procure was an offer of indenting myself out to whom my father pleased for five years, to go where he pleased, and to have five pounds in cloaths to equip me, and five pounds in money ; but I fancy my readers will imagine I had full enough of my intended voyage from *Bristol*, to think of going I knew not where, or how, nor with whom.

Still, because I would give as little room to blame my conduct as possible, and being pretty well surfeited with

with prisons and confinement, I wrote to my father's said solicitor the following letter about *Christmas* two years ago.

To Mr. Cox, in *Pater-noster-row*.

' SIR,

' I have long flattered myself that
' my patient submission to my un-
' paralleled sufferings, would at least
' have procured me some alleviation
' of miseries, by a remittance of my
' father's displeasure ; but how far
' such a disposition has availed me,
' my continuance in this horrid place,
' and in this deplorable condition,
' too plainly speaks.

' When I last received proposals
' from my father by your clerk (now
' some time ago) tho' they were in-
' deed too hard to be complied with;
' I nevertheless still hoped he would
' compassionate my sufferings, and
' enlarge his terms ; but I have not
since

‘ since heard from any body on this
‘ head.

‘ Therefore, Sir, I now take leave
‘ to trouble you, once more hum-
‘ bly entreating you to lay the follow-
‘ ing proposals before my father.
‘ Proposals, Sir, which from their
‘ own reasonableness, and his know-
‘ ledge of my afflictions, I flatter
‘ myself he can’t reject.—Your
‘ clerk proposed to me my going
‘ abroad as an indented servant, with
‘ five pounds in cloaths, and five
‘ pounds in money for my equip-
‘ ment; but when the length of
‘ time, the common decay of ap-
‘ parel, &c. is considered, I trust
‘ the insufficiency of this provision is
‘ too obvious to render me blame-
‘ able for declining my acceptance?

‘ I therefore, Sir, most humbly
‘ offer to my honoured father, that
‘ he would be pleased to enlarge his
intended.

‘ intended provision in proportion to
‘ the necessity, that must of course
‘ arise from time to time in the space
‘ of five years ; and that I may be
‘ at liberty to provide myself with a
‘ captain to be indented to, though
‘ to what trade, or to what part of
‘ the world he pleases.

‘ This my most humble request,
‘ I flatter myself will meet with a
‘ kind compliance ; as it must ap-
‘ pear to every one, too reasonable to
‘ apprehend the contrary ; and there-
‘ fore not being more solicitous to
‘ put an end to my heavy afflictions,
‘ than to prevent the town’s further
‘ entertainment with the unhappy
‘ differences between a father and a
‘ son, I most ardently desire you
‘ will not delay communicating this
‘ my dernier request to my father,
‘ assuring him my future conduct in
‘ life shall fully demonstrate I was
not

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‘ not unworthy his compassion and
‘ forgiveness : but that all my actions
‘ shall be influenced by the strongest
‘ ties of duty and affection ; I beg
‘ Sir, you will favour me with your
‘ answer ; and believe me, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT NUGENT, *junior.*

Common side of Newgate.

‘ *P. S.* The part Sir of a hu-
‘ mane and generous intercessor is at
‘ all times in itself too commend-
‘ able, and in this particular case,
‘ too obviously requisite, for me to
‘ imagine you will require any furth-
‘ er solicitation of your good offices,
‘ than an assurance they will be high-
‘ ly acceptable, and ever gratefully
‘ remembered by me.’

To this letter I never heard a syl-
lable in return, nor to many others,
in all which I endeavoured to use
such language as might give the
least

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least offence to my father, for tho' my sufferings have been intollerable, such was the industry of them parties, who busied themselves in these affairs, possibly to procure favour, that I make no doubt, had it not been for the ill offices done between us, things would happily and long ago have been reconciled.

I had now been near a twelve month confined in this fabric of woe, or rather as *Milton* says in his sublime description, of a place to which this is but little inferior in horror.

Sights of woe,
Regions of Sorrow, doleful shades, where peace
And rest can never dwell.

Should I detain the reader a moment upon this sink of human misery, it will not be improper to caution him, with rue and sage to arm his nostrils, lest contagion should dart along.

along the lines poisoned with so foul a subject.

At your first entrance into these gloomy territories, you are saluted by the turnkey and his assistants, in whose aspect, not the least traces of humanity are to be found.—The impious man who dared to explore the secrets of a charnal-house, and disturb the awful remains of the dead, would here find his courage fail, his spirits droop, and fear unfelt before seize upon his nerves, at first sight of this gorgon crew.

The tainted air infects the lungs, and an unusual tremor affects every joint, a dark stair-case presents itself to view, which being ascended, you enter into a long dismal room, the windows of which, instead of glass, admit the faint rays of light, together with the wind and weather, through solid ribs of rusty iron, long
oaken

oaken benches supply the place of chairs, and a set of wretches, in whose faces are painted variety of miseries, surround an empty table which stretches its ample length from end to end.

This is the quarter allotted for residence of the master-side debtors, *viz.* those who have paid what they call the admittance fee.

Another flight of stairs conducts you to their bed-chamber, not improperly call'd the stone-ward, the furniture of which, disagrees in no ways with that below : the arras of this room is solid stone, which condenses the pestilential vapour and pours from every side a perpetual stream of noxious waters : a beautiful prospect of *Snow-hill* is seen through the checquered light, which is sufficiently large to let in plenty of unwholesome winds, and western storms ;

storms; no doubt very pleasant to the unhappy tenants, who abound not in bedding where-with to shut out such unwelcome visitors.

Ye stony-hearted creditors, is it thus ye degrade human nature? is the image of God to be thus debased? is it possible for truth to encrease such dismal scenes?— Yes! go along with me to the opposite side —

O! humanity, where art thou fled, are these men thus involved in stench, and devoured with vermin, wrap'd up in darkness, and perishing with hunger? what heinous crimes have these committed, worthy of such unspeakable sufferings? say wretch, whom murdered thou?—

The want of three pounds has detained me here these three years; — a few shillings says another, would set me free, without which to discharge my goal-fees, I must remain here,
till

till the grave receives my half-eaten carcass.

O *Britannia!* is this thy greatly boasted liberty; are these skeletons of misery thy sons; are ye christians, ye inflictors of such barbarities;—
No; ye are not men, but instruments of *hell*, to scatter vengeance amongst mankind. But mark, the time will come, when ye shall be repaid tenfold, when ye shall call upon the mountains in vain, to shelter ye from his avenging ire, who holds the ballance of eternal justice.

Hark! what unusual noise is yonder, the promiscuous clangor of fetters, chains and handcuffs, additional scenes of wretchedness—
Here justice indeed shakes the iron rod; tremble ye authors of rapine, your fatal day approaches; regret your crimes and not the punishment.

Ap-

Approach not yonder infernal apartments, where blasphemy, lewdness and every species of vice, the recital of which, would pollute the tongue, have taken possession; ye wretches! what unsound politicks transports ye to defuse your infectious vices in distant regions and infant colonies.—Shall ye enjoy the comforts of fresh air in distant climes, which is denied to these, whose only crime is being unfortunate,—shall ye be at liberty to propagate vice! and shall these faultless, remain to swallow pestilential air, and consume with famine; to the scandal of christianity, and disgrace of christian laws, but so it must be, till providence and the legislature order otherwise.— Shall we visit those darksome cells, where the objects of justice wait for the dreaded bell; whose solemn sound, sure harbinger
I of

of death, brings on the fatal minute, which plunges them into boundless eternity. The scene is too awful; fly, fly these realms of horror,—— and let me reader be conducted along with thee, once more to breath purer air; which by the benevolence of my worthy friends in *Bristol*, I am now enabled to do, by removing myself to the *Fleet*: for in spite of the malevolent practices made use of by the priest; the base proceedings of my enemies, began to appear in a true light, and compassion once more raised it's head.

A subscription was open'd for me, by means of which, I not only had a-dieu to the horrors of *Newgate*, and was preserved from perishing; but for my future support, was enabled to lay before the publick a full account of all my sufferings, the publication of which, my father, and
his

his subtle agents strenuously endeavoured to prevent, threats, menaces, and all the vengeance of future law, was employed to deter the printers, publishers, &c. from daring to print or publish a single sheet in my favour, yet all in vain, the unfinished pamphlet found it's way to the press, and though composed in the utmost hurry, was favourably received by the nobility and gentry, to whom for their generous reception of such a trifle, I return my sincerest acknowledgements, and my bosom glowing with gratitude, daily supplicates almighty goodness ten thousand fold, to reward those my generous benefactors, without whose humane assistance, the grave before now, must have put a period to my miseries.

By the advice of several friends I was now brought up to *Guildhall* to take

the benefit of the late act of insolvency, but my father's inhumanity, was now arrived to so great a pitch, nothing could deter him from appearing against me in the face of a whole court. As the day was uncertain, he had the displeasure of attending three or four different times, being determined not to miss his opportunity, yet in case the court should grant me liberty, which was unhappily for me, not in their power, and to put a finishing stroke to his barbarities, a gang of sailors were planted at the doors of the *Hall* to seize me as I should come out, and with the utmost expedition carry me on board a tender.

My schedule when called for being produced contained nothing but a list of two hundred books and pamphlets, intitled the unnatural father, and which indeed was the
sum

sum total of all my effects, the court now fixed their eyes upon this persecuting parent, whose blood mounted in his cheek, and for once his assurance failed him. Several knotty points were now discussed, but the bond which I had been so artfully induced to execute in *Gloucester-Castle*, exceeding the sum mentioned by act of parliament *

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* This clause in the act of Insolvency, which detains me now in prison, may not be disagreeable to the reader.—Provided always that this act shall not extend to discharge any persons out of prison, taking his or her discharge under this act, with respect to any debt which he or she shall stand charged at the suit of the crown, or shall be indebted to any body politick or corporate, or to any one person, in any sum exceeding the sum of 500*l.* besides interest and cost, unless such body politick or corporate, or creditor, shall consent thereto, and if any such body politick, or corporate, or creditor, to whom a sum exceeding

it was with the greatest reluctance, that the court remanded me back to prison, giving me the full allowance permitted by the act, which is three shillings and six-pence per week.

To the recorder and lord mayor, I am under the greatest obligations for the pity and compassion they were

ceeding 500*l.* shall be owing, shall oppose the the discharge of such prisoner, and shall insist that such prisoner be continued in goal; that then in such case, such body politick, or corporate, or creditor, opposing the said prisoner's discharge as aforesaid, shall at his, her or their proper cost and charges, allow, and pay such a weekly maintenance, to the said prisoner, not exceeding three shillings and six-pence *per week*, in such manner, as the justices in their general or quarter sessions shall order, and upon non payment of the same, for the space of six weeks, the said prisoner, upon application to the said justices in their general or quarter sessions as aforesaid, shall be discharged pursuant to the meaning and intent of this act.

were pleased to shew my hard case, and think it no less than my duty, to return my sincerest thanks in this place for such their benign regards.

I found myself now for life fixed in a prison, and shut out from the most distant hopes of ever attaining future liberty, as my unjust action will for life detain me in durance and my misery only be encreased, should my fellow sufferers, by the intervening mercy of any future act be admitted to partake of those blessings, which through the means of parental tyranny, are alas! for ever denied to me.

My father having thus compleated my misery, things remained for a while in a state of inaction untill some months ago, proposals were again made for sending me abroad. The first mover of which, like a snake in the grass, artfully kept him-

self concealed, to the end, he might the more effectually seize his prey.

A certain gentleman a namesake, and as he says a relation of my mother's, who has had the honour of bearing a militia colonel's commission in some part of the *West Indies*, where I am informed he is possessed of a considerable estate, came in person to the *Fleet*, and applying himself to a gentleman conversant in the law, who had some small acquaintance with me; under the sanction of humanity and goodwill, introduced himself in the following manner, Sir, I am informed an unhappy young fellow, the son of a near relation of mine, whose name is *Nugenius*, has been for sometime confined in this place, as I have the greatest regard for his mother, my endeavours shall not be wanting to get him out, my proposals I shall
leave

leave with you, to whom I have been particularly recommended, which you at leisure may communicate to him; tell him if he agrees thereto, I will out of my own pocket discharge his debt of six hundred and twenty pounds, together with costs, and according to his behaviour he may expect future favours.

After he was gone the counsellor sent for me into the *Coffee-room*, the uncommon news gave me no small transports, but how was that chilled, when I was acquainted with the heads of the proposals, and the unartful mask fell at my feet, I was in the first place to indent myself for four years, to serve him upon a plantation of his, in the island of *Santa Cruz*; which by the by is a *Danish* settlement, my salary to be twenty pounds *per annum*, I was to enter into a bond with a thousand pounds

penalty, never to use the name, which by the laws of my country I am entitled to, nor to return during the space of four years to *England*, nor ever be any more troublesome to *Tiberius* or his family; I was not to have either money or cloaths till they had got me on board.

In consideration of agreeing to these articles, I was to receive fifty pounds when arrived in the *West Indies*, he, the colonel was to pay my debts in the prison which might amount to about fifteen or twenty pounds; and likewise to provide me with all suitable apparel: but observe the money which he laid out to pay my debts contracted in prison, and to furnish me with cloaths was to be deducted from the fifty pounds; and I was only to receive the ballance, if any, in *Santa Cruz*: My passage &c. he would
also

also pay, but I was still to be his debtor, and pay that when I should be rich; I make use of the express words as they stood in the proposals.

Such were the conditions proposed by this gentleman, to which the world will suppose I made several objections, a respectful and humble remonstrance he received from me a day or two after; was productive of the following concise answer wrote upon a small scrap of paper: ‘ Sir, I find you begin to
‘ rebel before your enlargement,
‘ if you do not think proper to accept the terms, I wash my hands
‘ of you. ’

In short this negotiation held off and on near three months, but hard as the conditions were I accepted of all even to the taking upon me the name of *Plunkett* or *Farrell*,
an

an other name which the colonel advised me to assume, rather than that of *Plunkett*, for what reason he only knows, yet as I would not be bound publicly to deny my real name, it dropt, and no more has since been heard from that quarter.

When I seriously reflect upon the above, what reason have I not to bless the preserving hand of providence, who kindly snatched me from the apparent destruction which these iniquitous proposals when closely examined into seemed to threaten; and I hope it will not be thought improper should I endeavour to paint this artless scheme of iniquity in it's proper colours.

In the first place, it will appear not a little surprising, that this gentleman's regard towards his relation, for such he is pleased to say my mother is, should arise on a sudden

den to so great a degree of affection, as to advance between six and seven hundred pounds to relieve her distressed son from the miseries of perpetual confinement, but mark soon after, this amazing scene of generosity, is seen groveling in it's original mire, for instance in the next article I am allowed no more than twenty pounds a year during the time of my *West India* slavery; when every one who is conversant in the public papers; knows very well, the meanest kidnapping office in *London*, never offer less than thirty pounds *per annum*, together with one quarter's advance, and that they indent all the rubbish of this kingdom is too evident to deny, how well these two articles coincide with each other is visible to every reader.

Again as the sole motives of these proposals

proposals were said to be affection and humanity, what necessity for me to deny my name, what benefit could accrue to either party, should I consent to so uncommon a proposition, the sheep skin suddenly drops and the rascacious wolf is now discovered, a bond! defend me from the dreaded name, and in the penalty of one thousand pounds. Monstrous! should I assume the strange names of *Plunkett* or *Farrill*, I am no doubt liable to be indicted for forgery; and should I be bold enough to lay claim to my own I must perish in a *Danish* goal, amongst a people unacquainted with my language, and consequently incapable of knowing my distress.

Here stop malice thou can'st proceed no farther; this is truly thy *ne plus ultra*, that this gentleman who pretends to have no connection with
my

my father should tread in the same foot steps by compelling me to change my name; by introducing the thread bare stratagem a bond; and by transporting me like a slave to foreign climes, and an unknown tongue is amazing indeed, but the original both of my misery and existence, is too well delineated not to be known, his features and complexion, are too boldly expressed in every article of the above, to remain long undiscovered.

Had this gentleman's intentions towards me, been as humane and honourable as he pretended would he not have permitted me the honour of a personal interview; which tho' he was twice in the *fleet* my most earnest entreaties could not obtain: an honest curiosity would have exited every humane man, to see the object upon whom he intended

tended to confer such large obligations; but dark designs and the authors of them, chuse not to be exposed to the eye of innocence, when upon it's guard; happy was it for me a gentleman was chose to conduct the proceedings whose integrity was not to be byassed, nor principles corrupted, and for whose ingenuous advice, I here return the sincerest thanks.

What certainty even had I of this colonel being master of a plantation in the island of *Santa Cruz*: to me it seemed upon consideration highly improbable, every one knows the *Danish* possessions in *America* are very small in respect to what is enjoy'd by other *European* powers, their studious application to trade and navigation we are not unacquainted with, and how tenacious they are of their rights and property,

ty, is well known to the commercial part of mankind.

Now that a nation so politick should permit the subjects of other crowns to purchase and cultivate estates to the detriment of it's own and when it's *West-India* acquisitions are so vastly small which must make her jealous of every inch she possesses, I must confess to me appears very absurd, but as I have had the unhappiness of being immured the major part of my life, within stone walls, ignorant of commerce, politics and the world. However incongruous it seems to me, it may never the less be otherwise, which if so I ask this honourable colonel's pardon for the surmise and take my leave of so disagreeable a subject.

Having brought the melancholy history of my persecutions down to my present situation in the *Fleet Prison*,

Prison; the candid reader I presume, will not think it improper should I attempt to comment upon such unprecedented proceedings before I close the whole.

My father it seems to justify himself in the eye of the world, has not scrupled to deny against the testimony of a self convicting conscience my being his son, could calumny, or artifice, prevail upon the publick, to countenance such an allegation; he would indeed completely triumph, but to his confusion the whole series of his unnatural behaviour in the foregoing pages, evidence the contrary, his own relations are living testimonies against him, as likewise is the unhappy lady who gave me being, and ready to confute such vile falsities.—Conscious how much the nobility and gentry of the kingdom of
Ireland

Ireland are exasperated against him, for so basely using my mother, he cares not to visit the paternal estate he there enjoys least he should be obliged to make full reparation for such unmanly usage.

But what punishment can be adequate to a crime of so deep a dye, the seducing a young lady not esteemed an unequal match for the greatest peer in the kingdom, and using her in the barbarous manner recited in the beginning of this book, (see page, 23, 24, 25, &c.) was not sufficient, but he vily dared to asperse her character and sully her reputation, by propagating at the time of the election, the most infamous falsities that scandal could invent; I have heard, and read much of our inconstancy to the lovely fair ones, but history no where parallels

allels such black ingratitude as this before me.

Who can believe this gentleman after the death of his first wife would to fulfil her dying request, jointly with that of his parents have hurried down from *Dublin* purposely to marry this lady, whom he had then so greatly injured (much more so since,) had he esteemed me the son of a favourite servant, which report has industriously been spread abroad: or why was I not punished as an impostor? for had I been such, the rigour of the law it is evident would not have been with held, he himself never denied my being the son of this lady, and she never failed to assert my being his.

The world is not ignorant, I derive my name from her, then I ask what reason he can assign for compelling

selling me in my distress to take an other, why did he take the advantage of my necessities and oblige me to sign bonds to the amount of almost of one thousand eight hundred pounds, when the total of what I received was not forty.

These dark points and many more, which will be found to occur in the forgoing pages; I publicly request him here to clear up, his own justification demands it, and silence to so home a charge will be esteemed in the eye of the world as a tacit assent to all which is here alleged against him.

I appeal to the nobility and gentry in the kingdom of *Ireland* for the truth of what I have here asserted in regard to my birth, and the divisions arising from thence and now subsisting betwixt the two families—I appeal likewise to his own
sisters;

sisters;—— and lastly I appeal to himself; if I am not his son, let him confute my mother's veracity and mine; not only by declaring whose son I am, but by producing sufficient proofs to make his assertions gain credit with the public.

I have frequently been asked what reason——could induce the lady who gave me being, to neglect, slight, and take no notice of me, as it was supposed an account of my sufferings must sometime or other have come to her ears?— O! say most honoured madam? What shall I answer, how shall I stop the tongue of inquisitive curiosity from commenting too boldly. Permit, permit an unfortunate son on his bended knees to implore your tender regard; pity my afflictions, and commiserate my distress; consider me not as the son of
your

your fatal seducer? Let not his guilt be punished in me, tho' I am the issue of his crime, I am yet your son; the impartial world which justly condemns him, reproaches not you; it is true you fell but it was where none could stand, the premeditated scheme big with infamy and guilt, was too well concerted for innocence to resist; not your weakness but his treachery prevailed, and delivered you a prey to the ruin which ensued, and of which I am the wretched consequence: would you punish him, let maternal tenderness incline your affections towards your unhappy fatherless first begotten child; — does he! persecute me, be you my protectress; — would he gladly see me perish, resist the malicious effort and preserve me from starving. — Thus would persecution itself be bound

bound in fetters, and this patron of tyranny receive a mortal stroke.—— Most dearly beloved madam, had you an idea of the uncommon ardour that inflames my breast, Whilst thus I address myself to your long lost notice? Whilst thus I paint to myself the maternal drop starting as you peruse these artless but natural lines:— The sympathizing tear flows freely down my cheeks, and I flatter myself you will pity, nay find means to relieve in part the distresses of your forlorn, abandoned child.—— To you madam, and to the public I should now bid adieu, did not gratitude for a moment detain my pen, whilst my over flowing heart returns my most humble thanks to that fund of goodness and humanity, the honourable Mrs. *Stutely*.—— To this most respected and honoured lady I am indebted

debted for little less than my present existence, for when confined to the bed of sickness, perishing with hunger and surrounded with misery; it was her beneficent hand that kindly raised, and snatched me from the daily expected grave; her liberal purse relieved every want. Food and physic were kindly administered, and the blessing of health was by her means again restored, to support me under my afflictions. Her generous ear never listened to the diabolical engines employ'd by my father in propagating defamatory lies, to prejudice my character, and gain me the ill will of the public; she saw thro' their detested designs, and scorned the plotters together with their artifice.

Such is the goodness of this lady, who not content with liberally rescu-

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ing me from the complicated distress of sickness and famine, has at several times discharged what arrears were due to the warden for the rent of my room; here it will not be unnecessary to observe, that out of three shillings and six-pence weekly allowed me to subsist upon, no less than half a crown is due for the use of a furnished room, the remains of which being one shilling is all I have to depend upon to supply me with food and raiment, and how sufficient so small a sum is for such purposes, I leave humanity to judge.

Nor should I merit further favours did I not in this place with a grateful heart remember the kind benefactions which frequently I have received from several of the nobility and gentry, who have kindly

by condescended to deprive oppression of it's sting, by pitying the hardships of my case and relieving my necessities.

Thus have I given to the world an ingenuous and candid narrative of proceedings, the bare recital of which strikes with amazement and horror, may such uncommon barbarity stand unexemplified in the records of time, and blush thro' all futurity to find no parallel.

Filial duty, and respect to the author of my being, urged me a long time to conceal my sufferings, and sustain in silence the load of oppression; but hunger, irresistible; hunger, would no longer hearken to these empty dictates of nature; impelled by the meagre tyrant, my unwilling pen delivered this tale of woe.

Ye whose generous and humane hearts bleed for the wretched, pity my distresses, and lend an ear to the supplicating voice of a senator's son asking for bread.

Pardon my sanguine hopes, should I with the utmost humility, once more presume to address myself to the public; requesting from the hands of the generous few, a blessing without which, existence itself, to an Englishman is misery; and life insupportable; I mean no less than LIBERTY.

A subscription promoted and supported with the influence of the beneficent and humane, might enable me, by an application in the courts of equity, to open the otherwise for ever closed gates of penury, and confinement; by doing of which the iniquitous artifice of compelling

compelling me to execute a bond for six hundred and twenty pounds, were nothing, was either tender'd or received, might then be brought to light.

Whilst hope, flattering hope, thus shows me, tho' it be only thro' the reversed end of her glass; the least, the most distant prospect of liberty. I find myself almost transported beyond the bounds of reason, — the pleasing illusion is still continued, and methinks I stand on the banks of the *Ohio*? *George's* royal commission in my panting bosom; and *Britannia's* streamer in my hand. — Behold the pointed raveling owns the superior force of destructive cannon. — The breach is storm'd; and gallic veterans sink beneath the sword of liberty: In the

200 *The Oppressed Captive.*

glorious hour when honour bears
the soul aloft, and the purple
stream pours from unfelt wounds;
then ye generous benefactors, then
shall ye be remember'd; and the
honourable trust reposed in me,
nothing shall discharge but death
or conquest.

And now gentle reader after
having conducted thee thro' vari-
ous scenes of wretchedness, and
misery, gratitude whispers me to
bid thee farewell, whilst thus we
together are bewilder'd in this
dream of honour; that the gloom
contracted by so long an ac-
quaintance with prisons and dis-
tress may wear off; and other
scenes besides those of affliction
may possess the powers of thy
imagination; and refresh the men-
tal faculties wearied, and op-
press'd

The Oppressed CAPTIVE. 113

press'd with being so long de-
tained in the mansions of dis-
tress.

F I N I S.



THE OPPRESSED CAPTIVE.

placed with being to long

Tiberius N. _____ *in* _____

Sempronius N. _____ *in* _____

Caius Attilius, N. _____ *in* _____

Cleora. _____ *in* _____

Metellus Delvius. _____ *in* _____

Cornelia. _____ *in* _____

Priscus Aufidius. _____ *in* _____

Cethegus Mervinus. _____ *in* _____

Mariamne. _____ *in* _____

Sempronia. _____ *in* _____

Accia Lucilia. _____ *in* _____

Portius Manlius. _____ *in* _____

Amelia Phineta. _____ *in* _____

Publius Juliptius, _____ *in* _____

Tiberinus. _____ *in* _____

Aminidab. _____ *in* _____

Irenius Arrus. _____ *in* _____

Numifius. _____ *in* _____

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